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Photo by Lin Yiguang

PARALYMPIC SPECIAL

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Police warn of overseas scams

By Milo Lee

The Ministry of Public Security issued an alert on September 2, warning small business holders to stay vigilant of an overseas capital-raising scam.

Since April, the Beijing police have investigated 16 representative offices of overseas companies in China that were involved in financial fraud. Working with illegal intermediary agencies, these representative offices released

bogus information and illegally gathered tens of millions of yuan from more than 600 small to medium enterprises.

Because many companies suffered capital-raising difficulties this year, a few criminals used this opportunity and schemed to entice money-hungry companies. Police said the criminals first fabricate overseas companies or register overseas offshore enterprises, and then set up represen-

tative offices in China to spread information about capital investments and loans. After receiving money for a so-called qualification examination from duped companies, the representative offices would pull out of the cooperation process using all sorts of excuses. Police said these representative offices are highly deceptive, and investors and companies should be wary and choose legitimate ways to invest or raise capital.

Financial fraud has disrupted markets for years and many individual investors and enterprises have been deceived by ghost companies.

Cheating under the cover of overseas capital-raising has begun to emerge and develop rapidly. Some investors and companies' foolishly believed that these overseas or international corporations had tons of money to move around and were totally legitimate.

To identify illegal capital-raising programs, investors must conduct a thorough background check before they go into business. Bogus companies often agree to invest regardless of what the business is, promise they will raise capital, urge clients to expand their company size and ask for huge amounts of money to inspect the project.

Police said investors should report suspected of fraudulent activity immediately.

Nothing but blue skies for Beijing?

By Milo Lee

The Olympics made people realize that the sky above Beijing can be clear and blue, and now the government is on a quest to find a way to keep those skies blue. He Kebin, a member of the Olympic Air Protection Group and professor at Tsinghua University, said the municipal government is working on a new plan to replace the odd-even license plate system that was introduced for the Olympics and Paralympic Games.

He said he prefers economic incentives, for example, raising parking fees or implementing a congestion charge in high traffic areas like London, to maintain the capital's much-improved air conditions.

According to the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau, during the 17 days from the opening ceremony to the closing ceremony, not only did Beijing's air quality achieve previously-scheduled standards, but also collected 10 A-level quality days which fulfilled the promise it made before the Games.

But as September 20 approaches, and the ban nears its end, netizens are discussing whether the policy should continue. More than 400,000 netizens have compared notes online to discuss the feasibility of the policy. Supporters said that even though the policy was a temporary fix, the outcome proves it works. Those opposed argue that a long-term car ban is only a flimsy solution. The ultimate solution should be the improvement of public transportation, not limitation of private cars on the road.

According to a survey conducted by the *Beijing News*, nearly 70 percent of respondents voted for the policy of traffic restrictions to continue. Authorities acknowledged that residents will not be content if condition moves backwards. Wedlock on wheel

Last Sunday, a new couple held an environmentally-friendly wedding on bike in Nanjing. Both are members of a bicycle club. Although they have their own car, they usually go to work by bicycle. The festive party after their procession promoted environmental awareness.



Last Sunday, a new couple held an environmentally-friendly wedding on bike in Nanjing. Both are members of a bicycle club. Although they have their own car, they usually go to work by bicycle. The festive party after their procession promotes environmental awareness.

IC Photo

Liu Xiang considering surgery in the US

By Han Manman

Chinese star hurdler Liu Xiang may travel to the US later this month for surgery to repair the foot injury that forced his withdrawal from last month's Beijing Olympics, the *Yangtze Evening Post* reported.

Liu and his coach Sun Haiping returned to Shanghai last Wednesday. He was given a thorough examination by experts at the Huashan Hospital who confirmed that Liu had suffered an injury to his achilles tendon, an injury common to athletes specializing in field events.

"My foot is not as swollen but I still cannot run," Liu was quoted by the *Liberation Daily* of Shanghai. "When I tried to exert pressure on my foot I could feel great pain. After the swelling goes down the doctors will work out a plan to perform a radical operation. I will continue training my upper body

and remain optimistic."

Yang Peigang, the dean of the Shanghai Track and Field Administrative Center, said treatment would be decided soon and would ultimately be approved by the General Administration of Sports of China. He declined to comment if Liu would fly to the US for treatment this month.

One of the experts involved is Chen Shiyi, the dean of the Sports Medical Center with the Huashan Hospital and he has invited US expert James Tasto to help. Tasto is an internationally-recognized surgeon in arthroscopy and sports medicine.

Chen said the reason Liu quit the Games was serious pain in his achilles tendon. The inflammation and swelling made it impossible for Liu to have a pain-killing injection and finish running. There are no effective treatments for this



Liu Xiang (right) came back Shanghai last Wednesday to receive the further treatment.

CFP Photo

type of injury, Chen said.

The dean said if all other efforts fail, surgery may be a final solution. Recovery is expected to take six months to a year.

Despite pressure from the public and watching rival Cuban Dayron Robles grab Olympic gold medal so easily, Liu has stayed

calm and vows to return stronger than ever.

"I am not upset after watching the final race," he said in his column in the *Liberation Daily*. "On the contrary, I still feel the desire for victory burning. I am still young. I have the potential. I will fight on against him (Robles)."

Ancient bronze mirror stolen from NW China museum

An ancient bronze mirror from the Wei and Jin Dynasties (220-420) was stolen from a Dunhuang museum in Gansu Province, a curator confirmed on Wednesday.

The Dunhuang Municipal Museum reported the theft to local police as soon as it found the mirror missing on Aug 24, when the building was open to tourists. Police were investigating the case, curator Fu Licheng said.

The mirror, 11 centimeters

in diameter and 0.3 thick, was rated a Class A heritage cultural property under national protection. The Chinese characters "Wei Zhi San Gong," roughly meaning "among top ranking officials," were inscribed on the back of the mirror.

A number of bronze mirrors have been unearthed in the Hexi Corridor region of Gansu Province in recent years, but the stolen one was among the best preserved. Three other ancient

bronze mirrors of lesser value were also stolen from the municipal museum.

Fu said the museum's sole infrared security system was operational the evening before the theft occurred. In the daytime, however, all cultural relics were guarded by security personnel.

Under a local regulation that took effect on August 1, the theft of a Class A cultural property is regarded as an extremely seri-

ous case and investigations must conclude within two months.

Dunhuang was a historic junction of the Northern and Southern Silk Roads.

For centuries, Buddhist monks at Dunhuang collected scriptures from the West and pilgrims traveling along the famous silk road to the West painted murals inside the Mogao Caves to form the world-famous grottoes.

(Xinhua)

Foreign insurers face barriers entering China

(FT) — Regulatory barriers, intensifying competition and high staff turnover are among the obstacles that could dent expansion plans of foreign insurance companies, according to a study by PwC, the professional services firm.

About 45 foreign insurers have taken on Chinese partners to set up mainland operations but many are frustrated by restrictions governing joint venture structures, branch locations and product offerings, according to the study.

"Foreign insurers believe they continue to be hindered by barriers to market access," said Peter Whal-

ley, PwC assurance partner and co-editor of the study, which is based on interviews with 28 senior executives of foreign-backed ventures operating in China.

The ventures have built up a 6 percent market share in China and foreign insurers project sales growth in life insurance of between 30 and 50 percent and a rise in sales of property and casualty insurance between 20 and 40 percent.

Most respondents to the survey believe foreign insurers would achieve 10 percent market share by 2011.

However, both domestic and

foreign insurance companies expect to face stiff challenges from the country's powerful banks, which have recently been granted approval to acquire stakes in insurers and are rolling out bancassurance products.

The study found that foreign insurers were "unclear on how successfully their products will be allowed to compete with the banks' own proprietary insurance offerings."

American International Group, Aviva, Generali, Prudential and Allianz are the top five foreign insurers in China ranked by pre-

mium income. A further 20 overseas insurers are expected to enter the market in the next three years.

"A lack of talent also impacts on the foreign insurers' ability to achieve first rate compliance," the report adds.

In spite of the challenges, China remains attractive to foreign insurers because of its strong growth and enormous potential.

According to the report, life insurance premiums against gross domestic product is 1.7 percent in China, compared with 4.1 percent in India, 8.3 percent in Japan and 13.1 percent in the UK.

Chinese economist not arrested as spy

A well-known Chinese economist says reports he has been arrested for spying for the US are false.

Wu Jinglian, 78, a senior researcher with the Development Research Center of the State Council, said in a Sunday interview with the government-run news agency Xinhua that foreign media reports of his arrest were untrue.

The center wrote on its Web site that Wu continues to live and work for it as usual contrary to some concerns after false published reports.

Wu reportedly returned from a meeting in the northern city of Tianjin to his Beijing apartment Friday and told the China news agency he was shocked to learn of "such windy rumors."

Coca-Cola to buy China juice maker



Coca-Cola announced Wednesday its plan to offer US \$2.4 billion to buy China's Huiyuan Juice Group.

IC Photo

Coca-Cola moved Wednesday to further strengthen its global reach by announcing plans to buy the Huiyuan Juice Group for US \$2.4 billion, the US soft drink maker's biggest acquisition in China.

The deal, which Chinese authorities have yet to approve, is part of the drive by the world's largest soft drink maker to buy up juice, water and other non-carbonated drink producers around the globe to diversify its product lines.

"Huiyuan is a long-established and successful juice brand in China and is highly complementary to the Coca-Cola China

business," Muhtar Kent, CEO of Coca-Cola, said.

He said the deal was "a unique opportunity to strengthen our business in China, especially since the juice segment is so dynamic and fast-growing."

The transaction represents a huge increase in Coke's investment in the rapidly growing Chinese market. According to its Chinese Web site, its accumulated investment in China since 1979 totaled US \$1.25 billion.

As part of its global efforts to expand beyond carbonated drinks, Coca-Cola acquired Russian juice

business Multon in 2005 and Mexico's second largest juice, nectar and fruit-flavored beverage producer, Jugos del Valle, last year.

The acquisition of Huiyuan would be Coca-Cola's second largest after it bought specialist water and energy drinks maker Energy Brands, Inc., known as Glaceau, for 4.1 billion dollars last year.

Coca-Cola will offer HK \$12.20 per share in Hong Kong-listed Huiyuan, the US company said in a statement.

This represents about three times the market value of the Chinese company.

It added that three shareholders owning a total of 66 percent in the company had accepted the offer.

Huiyuan, one of China's best-known juice brands, generated total sales of 2.7 billion yuan last year, according to France's Danone Group, which agreed to sell its 23 percent stake in the company.

That sales figure represents 40 percent of China's growing juice market share, analysts said.

Coca-Cola said it intended for Huiyuan to carry on its business, but that it would later review its operations. (Agencies)

30-million ton steel project launched in Guangxi

China has launched a steel making project in southern China's Guangxi region that will build up annual production capacity of 30 million tons, the official Xinhua News Agency reported on Wednesday.

Guangxi Iron and Steel Group, formed by Wuhan Iron and Steel Group and Liuzhou Iron and Steel Group, will have an annual capacity of 10 million tons after the project's first phase is completed.

The capacity of the plant, in the southeast coastal city of Fangchenggang, is set to expand to 30 million tons after the third phase of construction, although the companies have given no time frame for its completion.

China's current steel production capacity is about 550 million tons.

Morgan Stanley raises US \$10 billion, eyes China

Morgan Stanley is raising US \$10 billion for a global property fund and plans to put \$1.5 billion or more of that into China, shrugging off concern about a property market downturn, a banking source said on Wednesday.

The Morgan Stanley Real Estate Fund VII Global, the latest in a series of property investment funds, is expected to begin investing worldwide before the end of this year, said the source, who had direct knowledge of the fund.

It will invest at least 10 billion yuan in China over the next few years, taking a gradual approach while focusing on the largest cities such as Shanghai, where the price for a luxury downtown apartment can exceed US \$20 million.

The retail portion of the fund-raising has been completed with a minimum requirement of US \$1 million for individual investors in Asia.

The institutional portion, which requires at least US \$10 million for each institutional investor, will be completed soon, the source said.

(Agencies)

Canadian tourism targets Chinese families

By Huang Daohen

As the Beijing 2008 Olympics are now over, Canada's tourism marketers are getting ready to make the most of tourism opportunities in the potential Chinese market surrounding the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC) on Monday announced the final result of the Perfect Family Campaign after months of hot discussion and guessing on the net. Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo, known as "The Couple" of the ice-skating world, will officially represent the CTC's Perfect Family, a program aiming to display the happiness of a Chinese-style family and attract Chinese families to visit Canada.

"The Couple" claimed their title in the 2007 World Figure Skating Championships in Tokyo and currently manages a skating club together, promoting skating sports. "It is a blessing that we can share life's joys and sorrows, and strive towards our common ideals. It's even more fortunate that we can share happiness together," Shen said.

China is now the fastest growing market in the world for visitors to Canada. More and more Chinese families choose Canada as a destination for "family vacation" and "vacation with child," Derek Galpin, CTC's regional director for Japan and China, said.

"Though Canada does not have approved destination status (ADS) and the negotiations are still on the



Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo were named Monday the winners of the Perfect Family Campaign. Photo provided by CTC

way, we are optimistic about it," Galpin said.

Galpin's Beijing-based team is now inviting Canadian tourism operators to participate in a very attractive proposition. To allow the Chinese families to enjoy Canada's natural scenery and local culture better, the CTC launched the Perfect Family Web site canada.travel/

china on Monday to introduce in detail the projects and specialties which will suit Chinese families.

Statistics from the CTC show the number of Chinese visitors to Canada has been increasing steadily in recent years. In the first half of 2008, the figure increased by double-digits during the same period in 2007.

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9月21日 17:40-18:40 常宽、吴昊
9月27日 17:40-18:40 凡人组合
9月28日 17:40-18:40 高杰、艾罗薇、王静高、张迅、刘燕成、李茂、马雪阳、金泰来

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超越虚拟网球，胜似真实对决

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Beijing goes for barrier-free Paralympics

By Huang Daohen

The Beijing Paralympics will start tomorrow with 4,099 athletes, 2,644 team officials and 640 technical officers from 148 countries and regions. "Faster, higher, stronger" aside, the construction of barrier-free facilities in the host city is always another highlight during the Paralympics.

Is Beijing ready to make the city accessible to disabled people?



Haircuts for athletes are free.

Barrier-free in the Paralympic Village

By Venus Lee

The Paralympic Village has added more barrier-free facilities and services for disabled athletes. Part of the Olympic Village facilities have been refitted for the Paralympics. The Fitness Center, for example, has been changed to the Classification Coordination Center, and the former Casual Dining Hall is now the Orthotic Prosthetics and Wheelchair Repair Center. And in public areas, various blind tracks with barrier-free facilities have been set up.

"The facilities in the Paralympic Village are great. It is very convenient to live in it," Xue Liang, a Chinese wheelchair basketball player, said.

Lodging

"We wheelchair basketball players live on the first floor, and the coaches and team officials live on the second and third floors. Handrails have been installed along all the walls so we can move easily," Xue said.

While the 43 apartments climb as high as six and nine floors, only the first three floors will be in use during the Paralympics.

"Each athlete has a reading lamp on his night stand that can be switched off by pressing a button on the bed," Xue said. A red emergency button is affixed to each headboard and emergency teams are on duty round the clock. He said, "There is a useful bathing seat in the bathroom, and the shower nozzles have low and high options. There is also a handrail beside the sink."

Dining

The recipes and food safety standards of the Paralympics are similar with those of the Olympics. The entrance to the main dining hall was widened, and the height of the buffet table has been lowered 8 centimeters to



The dining hall was refitted for athletes.

Photos by Bruce Huang

make the dishes easier for disabled athletes to reach. The hall also has a deposit area where athletes can leave their wheelchairs. Many athletes use two wheelchairs: one for daily life and another for competition.

During the Paralympic Games, the dining service will operate 24 hours. Recipes cycle every eight days. Cui Yong, vice president of the food and beverage department, said the dining hall will increase its supply of food at night for Muslim athletes, as the holy month of Ramadan began Tuesday. There are special assistants to introduce the dishes verbally to blind athletes.

Transportation

"The village provides a special shuttle bus for us to com-

mute between the village and the venues. The chassis is low and there is a wheelchair lifter at the entrance of the bus. Each bus can seat 10 wheelchair athletes, and each seat has a fixing device," Xue Said.

Deng Yaping, spokeswoman for the Paralympic Village, said there are 30 motorized cars with wheelchair lifters used to move athletes between Paralympic Village and the stadiums and venues. Some electric carts are used to carry the athletes to any places they want to go within the village, and volunteers will help disabled athletes board and depart the bus.

Free repair service

The Orthotic Prosthetics and Wheelchair Repair Center provides athletes with free main-

tainence and repair service of wheelchairs and artificial limbs. "We tested and adjusted our new competition wheelchairs in the center on Wednesday. There are many foreign and domestic technicians, and there are no maintenance fees for the repairs," Xue

times in the National Stadium and Beijing Science and Technology University Gymnasium to get used to the facilities and environment. The team members all said the barrier-free facilities were excellent. Several rows in the stadium have been



The Orthotic Prosthetics and Wheelchair Repair Center provides free maintenance.

Liang said.

The center has rooms for shaping, polishing, assembly and testing. As many as 150 technicians from 19 countries are present to service equipment.

Paralympic podium will be barrier-free

The podium in the stadiums and venues will also be barrier-free. Athletes can climb onto the victory podium on their own using a wheelchair.

"We have trained several

upgraded to barrier free seating," Xu Yuansheng, coach of the Chinese wheelchair basketball team, said,

The Water Cube's barrier-free facilities were also upgraded. In the Northern part of the stands, two rows of VIP seats were renovated for people with disabilities. Several mobile, barrier-free restrooms in public area were set up beside the permanent restrooms.

Continued on page 6 ...



A shuttle bus with wheelchair access is available for athletes.

... continued from page 5

6

Environment



Five swimmers from Poland travelling in Wangfujing.

Photo by Li Zhixin

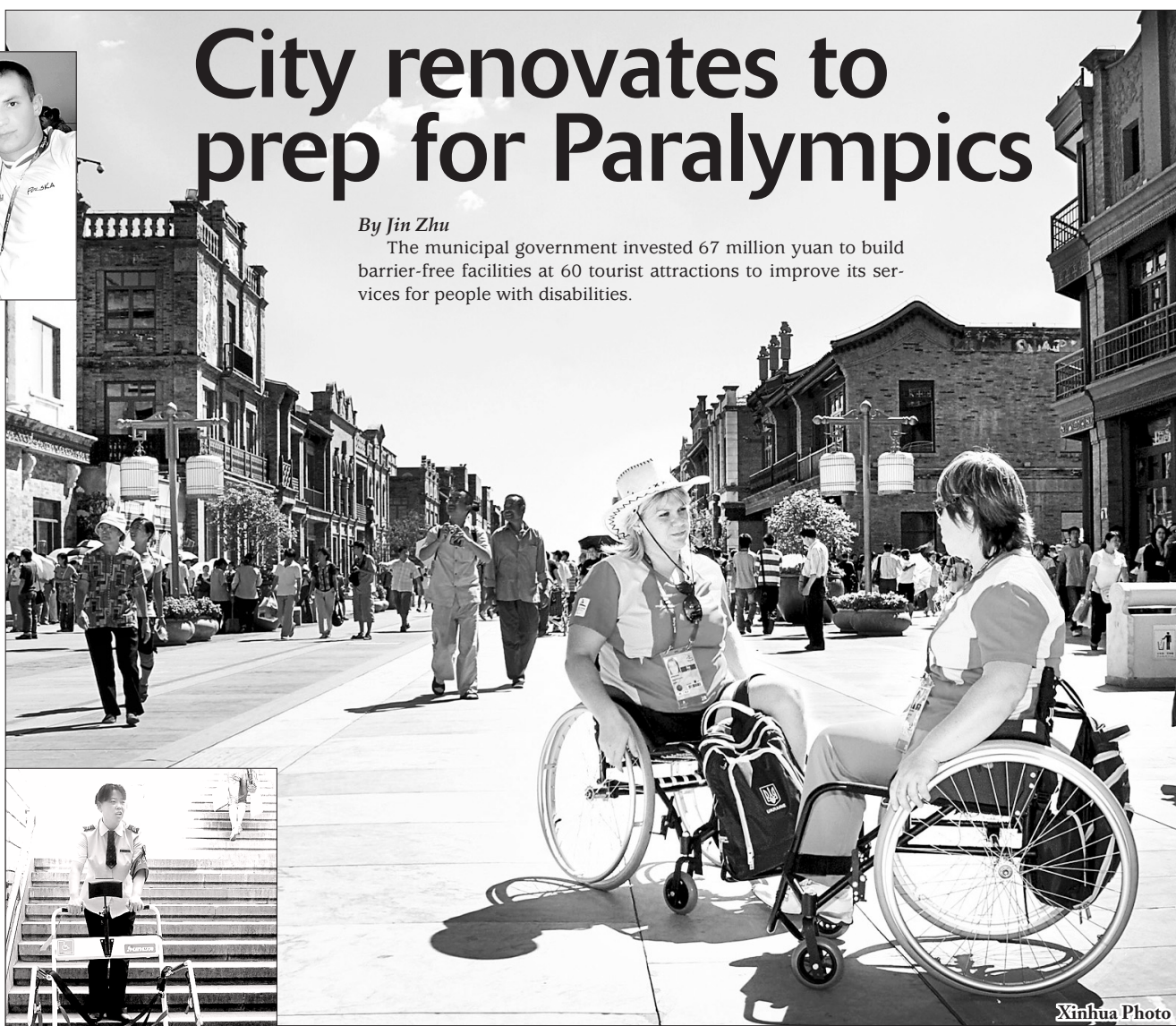
Wangfujing opens to wheelchairs

To experience the construction fruits of barrier-free facilities, *Beijing Today* visited Wangfujing, the biggest shopping center in the capital on Tuesday.

At the exit of Wangfujing subway station, two facilities for lifting wheelchairs have been installed. One is a wheel chair lift, fixed beside the stairs with access to the exit. Subway workers said 70 stations have employees trained in the use and maintenance of chair lifts. "When passengers with disabilities need to use a wheelchair, we will operate the wheel chair lift and assist them," she said. "For stairs without a wheelchair lift, we provide a 'climber,' a wheelchair lifting machine powered by the nearest operator."

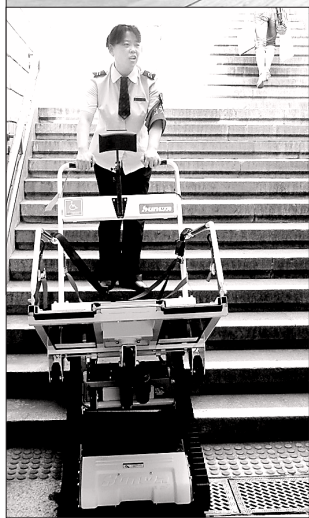
Almost every store on Wangfujing has installed ramps to be accessible to wheelchair users. It is not rare to see people with disabilities shopping in old and famous stores, such as the Shengxifu hat store and Wuyutai tea store. Lowered cash desks, barrier-free phones, toilets and elevators for disabled people have been put into use and are marked with Braille signs.

In McDonald's, five swimmers from Poland, Kavoliwa Hamer, Mateusz Michalski, Pauline Wozmak, Anna Omieler and Katarzyna Paulik, told *Beijing Today* the construction of barrier-free facilities in Beijing turned out to be even more successful than they expected. "With the aid of barrier-free facilities, we can travel everywhere without any assistance," he said, "We



Xinhua Photo

Ukrainian athletes visited Qianmen and said they were satisfied with the city's barrier-free facilities.



The city's subways are equipped with "climbers."

Photo by Li Zhixin

also plan to visit the Great Wall and the Temple of Heaven after the competition."

Barrier-free facilities everywhere

The city has been on a quest

to get barrier-free facilities everywhere before the start of the Paralympics.

The city's taxi fleet has 70 barrier-free cars for disabled people. In these cars, the seat will move out to the right side of the car by pressing a button on the assistant's seat.

The Beijing Bus Company opened 16 special lines for disabled passengers. Nearly 3,000 barrier-free buses have specially-installed gadgets, including handbrakes for wheelchairs, wooden blocks and safety belts.

For blind people, 751 traffic

signal lamps are now in service in the central zone of the Paralympics. When the light turns green, signal lamps play a tone to alert blind people it is safe to cross. The tone halts when the light turns red.

A total of 188 barrier-free rooms will be available at 16 hotels during the Beijing Paralympics. In the appointed hotels, any barriers in guest rooms, bathrooms, elevators and passageways have been removed. At every famous scenic spot, barrier-free pathways, wheelchair lifts and ramps have been installed.

When asked about the experi-

ence of using barrier-free facilities outside the Paralympics village, Xue Liang, a wheelchair basketball player, said, "The facilities are amazing, but there are not enough. For instance, it is rather difficult to find a special bus at the airport."

"China has done well in the construction of barrier-free facilities," Philip Craven, the president of International Paralympics Committee, said, "construction for people with disabilities is a long-term project. Construction should continue even after the Beijing Paralympics."

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Now it's our turn

By Han Manman

Olympic fever has subsided, but for Paralympians, the Games are just warming up. With the opening of the Beijing Paralympics around the corner, athletes are readying to compete and beat their personal records.

But the real energy of the Paralympics comes from the stories behind its athletes.

'Blade Runner' aims for three medals

By Han Manman

Although South African double amputee sprinter Oscar Pistorius was hurt when athletics authorities banned him from competing with able-bodied athletes at the Beijing Olympic, he is ready to rekindle the fire and show his running talent at the Paralympics.

Pistorius, 21, who lost both legs below the knees when he was a baby, runs on shock-absorbing carbon-fiber prosthetics that resemble bent skis — earning him the nickname "Blade Runner."

"I'm not disabled, I just don't have any legs," Pistorius says when people regard him as physically-impaired doll out of pity.

The South African won a gold in the 200m, and bronze in the 100m at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens. He holds Paralympic world records in the 100m, 200m and 400m.

"My goal is to come home with three gold medals," he told to the *Pretoria News* last Tuesday. Pistorius has been viewed by the public as one of the superstars of the Beijing Paralympics where he will compete in the three events. Pistorius said his strongest race will be the 400m while the 100m will be the biggest challenge.

As a Paralympic Games cham-

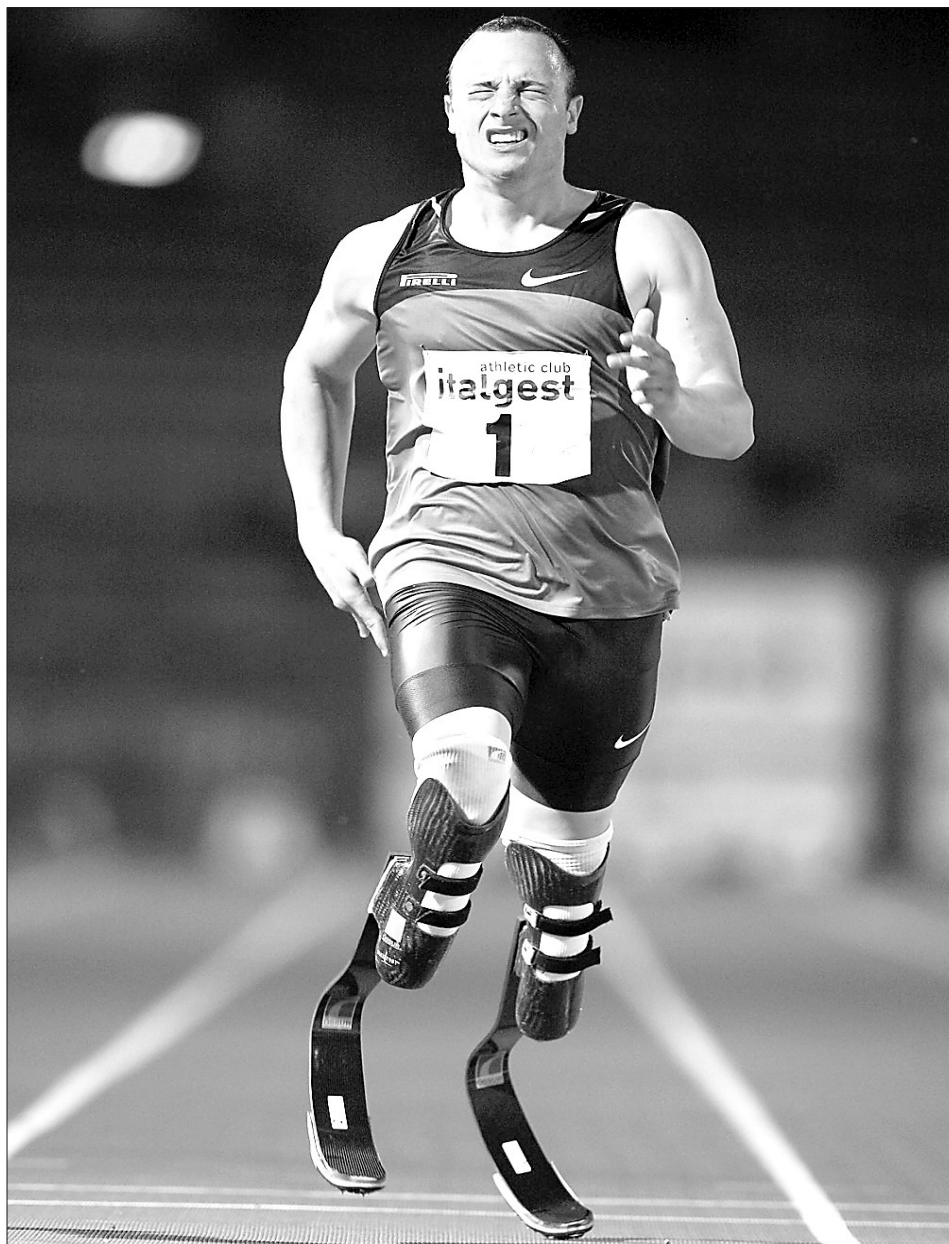
pion and world record holder, Pistorius lobbied the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) to allow him to compete at the Beijing Olympics, but after extensive tests the IAAF ruled in January that his J-shaped prosthetics qualify as technical aids, which are banned in IAAF-governed sports.

The IAAF does allow athletes with prosthetics to compete in able-bodied sports, as long as the IAAF believes they do not give the athlete an unfair edge.

Pistorius emphasized to the court the disadvantages he has by running with prosthetics, CNN World Sport's Don Riddell said.

"There are disadvantages when it's windy, when it's raining, (and) it takes him longer to get up to speed at the start," Riddell said. "He will be hoping that they take everything into consideration and not just rule on how much spring his prosthetic limbs give him."

Born without the fibula in both legs and missing a number of other bones, Pistorius was 11 months old when his parents, Hende and Sheila, having consulted every medical expert the world over, reluctantly signed the papers agreeing to have their young son's limbs amputated beneath the knee.



Oscar Pistorius of South Africa struggles to fourth place in the Notturmo di Milano International Athletics Meeting at the Arena Gianni Brera. The race was held on July 2, 2008 in Milan, Italy. CFP Photo



Melissa Stockwell (right), one of the first veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom joins the Paralympics.

Photo provided by Melissa Stockwell

Iraq war veteran swims to Paralympics

By Han Manman

Michael Phelps is out of the Olympic spotlight for now, but there's another American swimmer who will be making waves in Beijing. Melissa Stockwell is not only a world-class athlete but a veteran who lost her left leg in Iraq.

Stockwell's left leg was amputated above the knee after a roadside bomb struck her vehicle as she led a supply convoy through Baghdad on April 13, 2004.

The soldier-turned-swimmer is one of the first veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom to represent the US in the Paralympic Games.

She will be competing in the 100m butterfly, the 100m freestyle and the 400m freestyle. "Whatever the outcome in Beijing, I'll know I gave it my all," she wrote on her blog.

She set a US record in the 400m freestyle during the Paralympic trials this year with a time of 5:03.08.

A born athlete — first a gymnast growing up in Minneapolis and then a diver at the University of Colorado — Stockwell participated in the ROTC and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army. After being assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division in Fort

Hood, Texas, she was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in March 2004.

Barely a month into her deployment, Stockwell was riding in an unarmored Humvee as part of a convoy along a supply road in northern Baghdad. "It was April 13, 2004," she recalled. "About 10 minutes into the ride, a roadside bomb went off and it hit our vehicle and we kind of swerved and it hit a guard rail and we kind of swerved back. Between the blast of the bomb and hitting the guard rail, it severed my left leg."

Doctors fitted the future Paralympian with a prosthetic leg.

In the hospital's physical therapy center just months after the explosion, she encountered John Register, a US Olympic Committee member and amputee. The meeting was her chance at a future as a professional swimmer.

"I started swimming pretty early on because it was easy to do," she said. "I didn't have to wear a prosthetic leg, so I could just kind of use my crutches to get into the pool and get some laps and then get out."

After being medically discharged from the Army, she started training with the goal of making the US Paralympics team.

Wheelchair fencer continues Olympic dream of gold

By Zheng Lu

The sword is the epitome of chivalry, and he who wields one is called a swordsman — even when he wields it from a wheelchair. Pal Szekeres, the only man in the world to have won medals in both the Olympics and the Paralympics is ready to take on this year's Games.

According to Paralympic rules, wheelchairs must be fixed to the fencing stage for competition. The points of the swords between the two contenders are

only at a distance of several dozen centimeters: wheelchair fencing is a showdown in a narrow space.

Szekeres was once a notable Olympian before a car accident in 1991. He participated in the 1988 Seoul Olympics as a member of Hungary's foil team and finished with a bronze medal.

He should have had a bright future and more years as a fencer, but three years later on his way home from a World Cup in Germany, a severe car accident severed his spine.

While Szekeres was in rehabilitation in a German hospital, a Hungarian coach who was working for the German Wheelchair Fencing Team brought him hope to pick up his sports career in a new way. Soon after, he won the European Championships and began his career as a wheelchair competitor.

Within a year of his crash, Szekeres won the Paralympic foil gold in Barcelona. In 1996, he took the sabre gold and defended his championship in the foil event.

He took two bronze medals at the Sydney and Athens Olympics, but was busy with his official business as deputy state secretary of the Hungarian Ministry of Children, Youth and Sports.

The 44-year-old swordsman said his target this year is another gold medal, Xinhua reported. To prepare for the Beijing Paralympics, Szekeres has spent many hours in many training camps. He will compete this year in the wheelchair foil and sabre events.



Pal Szekeres with his children. Xinhua Photo

"Warm up" to the Games



Brazil's wheelchair basketball team members fight for the ball during their training inside the National Indoor Stadium ahead of the Paralympic Games in Beijing Wednesday. IC Photo



Paralympian cyclist thinks the games are the "wheel" thing.



"Tennis, anyone?"

CFP Photos

By Gan Tian

With the 2008 Paralympics opening tomorrow evening, many athletes have already arrived. The city sees them not only competing at the venues but also proving how able they are during 20 scheduled events.



Paralympian gets mushy with mascot

Xinhua Photo



Paralympian "Robin Hoods"

CFP Photo



Recumbent racer does "wheelie."

IC Photo



Phelps fan honors his hero

Photo by Jia Ting

Paralympics move gov to step up disabled aid

By He Jianwei

The government has taken many steps to empower disabled people in recent years as it prepared for the Paralympic Games, an official from the Beijing Organizing Committee of XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) said during a press conference about the upcoming event.

There are 83 million disabled persons in China, about 6 per-

cent of the population, Tang Xiaoquan, executive vice-president of BOCOG and president of Executive Board and vice president of the Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF), said.

A revised version of the country's law on the Protection of Disabled Persons took effect July 1. The revision focuses on the rights of disabled persons to education, employment and participation in entertainment and sport.



Sweet Home is a multi-function service center that provides facilities and accommodations for disabled people to engage in cultural, sport and entertainment activities.

Equal right to education

By Wang Yu

The Beijing No 2 Deaf-Mute School was founded in 1919, 30 years before the establishment of the People's Republic of China. The school is under the administration of the commission of education like normal schools and cooperates with the disabled persons' federation on some healing projects.

"Now there are about 150 students studying in our school and 110 of them are boarders," Wang Kenan, president of the school, said. "As we have a good reputation in educational circles, about one third of the students are from other provinces."

The school offers courses from primary to junior high. Many of the teachers are graduates of normal universities. Because of the students' disability, their preschool knowledge is almost a blank and it requires the teachers to give lengthy explanations.

Students can attend the special entrance exam for high school in the last year. "Most of them will continue their study at the No 3 or the No 4 Deaf-Mute School. Higher education is also available to them as colleges such as Beijing Union University and Tianjin University of Technology have set up special education departments in recent years," he said.

From primary school to college, disabled students in Beijing now have a clear road of education and it is more or less the same in other cities. Educators advise that students who don't have difficulties in communication with others, such as those with physical disabilities, are better placed in regular schools to keep them out and involved in society.

As of 2007, China has 1,667 special schools for deaf-mute and mentally-impaired children, and

another 2,803 schools offer special instruction for disabled students. The country has 580,000 disabled students enrolled in school.

Teaching disabled students is a tough job that requires patience and dedication. Some students have started careers in art design and some chose small business, usually aided by their family. "One of my students graduated from Capital Normal University and is studying for a doctorate in the US," Wang said.

Live a colorful life

By Zhang Dongya

According to the revised law on the Protection of Disabled Persons, the state and society shall encourage and assist disabled persons to participate in various forms of cultural, sports and entertainment activities and work to meet their spiritual and cultural needs. Wenxin Jiayuan, "Sweet Homes," is a multi-function service center that provides facilities and accommodations for disabled people to engage in cultural, sport and entertainment activities.

A total of 150 "Sweet Homes" have been built in Beijing, scattered across its 18 districts and counties. Some homes were set up in previous activity centers of nearby communities to add services for disabled people. Others are independent centers serving the disabled only.

The centers are equipped with a rehabilitation room, skill-training room, library, reading room, sports room and supermarkets. All centers supply technical aids for the disabled, like prosthetics and orthotics.

During the Paralympics, as many as 15 "Sweet Homes" were selected as centers for disabled athletes and journalists.

The "Sweet Home" located in Dongsì, Chaoyang District, is one. Built in the Dongsì Olympic Com-



Two blind men played Chinese chess in Sweet Home.

CFP Photos

munity Sports and Cultural Center, it receives both able-bodied and disabled people. It serves 1,200 disabled persons from 10 nearby communities.

Disabled people there make Chinese knots and Peking Opera make-up by hand, and in the Computer Room, they learn about the news and the Games using the Internet.

"Here, we have technical aid rooms for us to borrow or rent the apparatus, and the Electronic Reading Room which has special reading machines for the visually impaired. The Professional Rehabilitation Room is for those with mental problems," Xin Ren, 28, said. "For the retarded, the Life-skill Training Room can help them to learn communication and how to handle daily life situations."

He said the center also schedules activities like Taichi training and chorus.

Employment hard, but making progress

To increase the employment rate of disabled persons in China, "state and public organizations, enterprises, institutions and urban and rural collective economic organizations must employ a certain proportion of disabled persons in related jobs and positions," accord-

ing to the law on the Protection of Disabled Persons.

The proportion is spelled out in the Regulations on Employment of the Disabled, which came into force in May 2007. According to the regulations, "the proportion of disabled employees must be no lower than 1.5 percent of the total staff in an office."

Beijing opened a world-class training venue for disabled persons in Daxing District in 2007. It is a vocational training center and offers classes to 20,000 disabled persons each year for free.

Special training center for athletes

China topped the gold and overall medal tally for the first time at the Athens Paralympics 2004.

In July 2007, Beijing opened the world's largest sports training site for disabled persons in Shunyi District. China Disability Sports Training includes multi-sport gymnasiums, a swimming pool, cycling track, two outdoor football fields and two archery ranges.

During the Paralympics, the Chinese delegation will train here. After the Paralympics, it will become a training center for disabled athletes from both home and abroad.

Statistics

Education

The capital has 23 publicly-funded special schools, including one school for the blind, five for the deaf and 17 for those with mental handicaps. The enrollment rate of the city's disabled children is 98.9 percent. The number of students attending education above junior high has risen by 13.9 percent compared with data collected 20 years ago, and the number of disabled students attending college has quintupled.

Employment

The employment rate of disabled people in China is over 80 percent. The government has provided jobs for 18 million disabled persons in rural areas and 4 million in urban areas and towns.

Sweet Homes

More than 45,000 disabled persons in Beijing are aided Sweet Homes.

Athletes

Of the country's 83 million disabled persons, 20 million participate in sport activities.

Care for disabled starts from the bottom up

By Annie Wei

It takes more than aid and government intervention to build an equal world for disabled people. A better environment for all can only be achieved when basic rights and educational opportunities are available for all. The increasing number of grass-roots NGOs for disabled people from big city to countryside is a sign of civilization's progress.

Turn on lights for the blind

By Zhang Dongya

Hongdandan, the Chinese name for the azalea, is more than a flower to the blind, it is a home and a school where blind people can find self worth and hope.

Founded in 2003 by Zheng Xiaojie, Beijing Hongdandan Education and Culture Exchange Center spent five years engaging in multi-development and cultural services for the disabled, especially the blind. As a non-profit organization, Hongdandan played a role in serving the blind in creative ways. It has become one of the leading NGOs for disabled people in China.

Seeking a life change

Hongdandan's founder, Zheng Xiaojie, 47, used to work for the government, foreign enterprise and media.

She said that 20 years ago, when she studied psychology part-time, a disabled girl who had to crawl up the stairs to class left a deep impression on her.

In 2002, Zheng had a chance to enter the movie and TV field. When she found TV programs and films failed to sell after considerable effort and money, she realized something was wrong. "Why not spend the efforts and money on true stories which can move people and encourage people?" Zheng said.

She began to produce programs about disabled people's daily lives. The Education Channel of CCTV had an outlet for free broadcast, and her pieces were aired as part of the Shengming Zaixian series, Life Online.

However, after the initial success, Zheng found it had limited access to disabled audiences, who were themselves isolated and in poverty. One day, a disabled friend told her that the only way to change their lives was through knowledge.

In July 2003, Zheng set up Hongdandan.

Mind's eyes for the blind

Located in an old Beijing courtyard in Gulou, Xinmu Cinema is always crowded with the blind every Saturday morning. Xinmu,



Dawei (left) and a volunteer explain an event to the blind viewers.

Photo provided by Hongdandan

translated literally as the mind's eye, is a special cinema where a man called "Dawei" tells movies like telling stories.

Dawei, the nickname of Wang Weili, 50, is Zheng Xiaojie's husband. Once, when a blind person came to visit him at home, he was watching *Terminator*. Dawei began to verbally explain the movie for the guest. When the movie ended, the guest embraced him and said, "I got it!" He was moved by the scene and came up with the idea to explain movies for the blind.

At the beginning, Hongdandan helped blind people learning to produce radio and TV programs. "The choices of professions for the blind are very limited, mostly masseurs and piano tuners, since schools for blind offer only those subjects. We would like to enhance their occupational opportunities. In addition, radio is the best company of the blind," Zheng said.

"Since blind people are rarely well educated or experienced, training classes are often difficult for them. Listening to movies can help bridge the knowledge gap. In the process, they can improve their ability to understand and communicate," Dawei said.

Many people have joined the cinema to explain movies to blind people, including volunteers and CCTV's Cui Yongyuan and Wang Xiaoya. During the Olympics, they acted as commentators to explain the matches every day.

A lifelong career

For Zheng Xiaojie and Dawei, Hongdandan it is a lifetime commitment. "In China, public welfare has a long way to go. We decided to continue this road," Dawei said.

There are 10 members working for Hongdandan, all of them former students. Ma Xinyu, 26, one of the senior students, is the radio DJ and program designer and editor. Though he cannot see, he can skillfully use a computer to edit radio. "I host a program called 'Xinmu Kan Shijie' (The World Through the Mind's Eye), a phone-in show. Our program is very popular with blind people," Ma said.

This May, Hongdandan cooperated with Beijing People's Art Theatre to produce a drama named *The Blind* featuring 12 actual blind people who were Hongdandan students. "It was a big success to show the lives of blind people to the common audience," Lin Zhaohua, the director, said.

Depending on donations, Hongdandan has a Web site to show its operation status, the source of its funds and how they are used.

For the upcoming Paralympics, it plans to take the blind people to "watch" the Games in stadiums and explain the matches to them on the spot. They are in urgent need of group tickets for the blind, so anyone who can help can dial 8193 1393 to contact Hongdandan.

Disabled people unite in the countryside

By Annie Wei

Qi Qiankun, 37, a villager in Xiaowande in Wande county of Shandong Province's Jinan, starts his walk to the Luxingzhijia office with a limp.

Luxingzhijia is a self-formed development center aimed to bring disabled people together, to exchange information and to help each other stay economically independent.

Qi and the other members meet to discuss product development and sales once a month.

His limp began at age three when he had polio. It was most damaging to his left leg. In 1995, Qi went to Fujian Province where he earned a degree in Chinese literature while working at a factory. In 2002, he started working for the province's Disabled Person's Federation, which put him in contact with NGOs from Hong Kong and Macao.

After working with them, he said, "They help disabled people to live on their own. Why can't we?"

Having grown up in the countryside, Qi understood that disabled people have more difficulty living there than in cities.

The average per capita income of families with disabled members is less than half the national average, and poverty remains a major obstacle.

According to a national survey in 2006, 75 percent of the country's 83 million disabled people live in the countryside, usually in underdeveloped areas.

Shen Zhifei, deputy general director of the Disabled Persons' Federation, said a survey conducted in Beijing, Sichuan and Henan in 2006 showed that 33 percent of mentally-impaired and 61 percent of mentally-ill people require rehabilitation but cannot bear the cost. Another 43 percent of people with hearing difficulties and 31 percent with speaking difficulties need help

but cannot afford tools for assistance.

Qi quit his job and returned home in 2003, where he met childhood friend Feng Maoquan, who also had a limp from polio. Feng set himself up as a doctor while working in a brick factory.

They founded Luxingzhijia with the help of local government.

The start was difficult. Qi carted in disabled people one by one on Feng's motorized tricycle. In the countryside, disabled people are very spread out and rarely have a chance to meet strangers. Qi and Feng had to talk to them repeatedly and encourage them to join their project.

At least 30 disabled people have joined thus far. Qi hopes to attract 3,000 disabled people who are able to work.

Zhao Yufeng, 38, part of Luxingzhijia, is also disabled. Zhao had a severe deformity of her waist during childhood.

Zhao said disabled people depend heavily on their families in the countryside: they do not go out, they do not socialize with others and they never find a job.

She said she felt inferior since she was 18. Before 2006 when she turned 36, Zhao never had a job but lived with her parents or her sister's family, where she looked after the children.

In 2006, Luxingzhijia launched a countryside straw project in the village where her sister lived. The project was open to disabled people and middle-aged or old women in the countryside. It was her first introduction to the program.

Zhao said she had never been so happy in her life – to be able help others and devote herself to welfare.

"Without the platform Luxingzhijia provides, I could never live without my family's support," she said.

Sign language makes its mark on city's campuses

By Gan Tian

Du Juanlian, a junior student in Beijing Union University, is also the chair of Love Association, a university student group. The association draws as many as 200 new members each semester. One of its main activities is to teach sign language.

"In the early 1990s, some students wanted to help their dis-

abled classmates on campus," Du said. "It was only later that we considered disseminating communication information to more people, and that's how the association began."

The association enrolled freshman members and held sign language courses every week. It takes four or five classes for a student to get a basic grasp

of sign language and to communicate with others.

Many people off campus also have interests in the free courses.

Huang Wuqi, a 29-year-old office worker, attends classes on weekends. "It helped me understand the voice of another world," Huang said. Huang said she had never used what she

learned to help a disabled person, but said it "may be useful in an emergency."

Hui Heli went into his disabled friends' community and played games with the people every week. "Now I can sing in sign language for them," he said.

Many schools have chosen to follow Beijing Union Univer-

sity's lead. Almost every university in Beijing has its own group to teach sign language.

"It is hard to count how many people are learning [sign] language in Beijing," Du said. "In our association, we have nearly 4,000 members. Some of them have gone on to teach others in their spare time after graduation."

More Paralympic tickets to be available online and at outlets

By Annie Wei

As the Paralympic tickets grow in popularity, BOCOG has to add new tickets on the Web site each day to keep up with the demand. Tickets include some competitions at the National Stadium and the Water Cube.

Zhang Qiuping, director of the BOCOG Paralympic Games

Department of the Games said this week that 70 percent of the Paralympic tickets had already been sold.

More than a million of the 1.65 million tickets have been sold, Zhang said. Among them, 300,000 tickets were distributed to schools and communities to encourage students,

residents and disabled citizens to watch the competitions.

Tickets to the swimming and fencing events sold out earlier this week. Some of the track and field tickets are still available.

According to the ticketing department's information, tickets for five-man-soccer, bicycle, ping pong, shooting and

archery competitions on the weekend and the finals are sold out. Tickets for other times are still available.

The ticketing department said they would release more tickets, mainly for events held in the Water Cube and the National Stadium.

The official ticketing Web

site, tickets.beijing2008.com, is the primary source for tickets.

In addition, over 30 Bank of China outlets have been authorized to sell tickets in Beijing and Qingdao. In the very last stage of ticketing, some tickets will be sold at ticket booths where Paralympic competitions are being held.

The Olympic Green is a choice for National Holiday plan

By Venus Lee

From September 21 to October 5, The Olympic Green will open for the public at no charge.

However, if you want to visit the stadiums and venues there will be a fee charged. Areas open to the public include the central area of the Olympic Green, Forest Park and the Beijing Olympic Village.

Wang Chun, the secretary general of public area managing committee, said that the Bird's Nest, Water Cube, Forest Park and Beijing Olympic Village will be opened during this period, and from September 21 to 27 there will be a test opening with the official opening being from September 28 to October 5. Access to the public areas in the village will still require visitors to go through a security check.

In terms of stadiums and venues, the Bird's Nest, Water Cube and the National Stadium will be open to the public but the Beijing National Olympic Green Convention Centre, Main Press Center and International Broadcasting Center as well as stadiums and venues in northern part of the Olympic Green will not be open. Wang said, except for stadiums and venues which are not free, all other areas will be admission free with a

no-charge ticket.

The Olympic Green enjoys the advantage of Olympic resources.

The Olympic Green will arrange stadiums and venues sightseeing tours, exhibition and performance activities during the National Day holidays.

During the opening period, private cars will be allowed to park on the Olympic Green for the first time. Twenty-two parking lots around the Olympic Green will provide over 7,800 parking space for the citizens.

The central area of The Olympic Green will become a theme park featuring six tourist lines including the Stadiums and Venues Line, Green Eco-tourist Line, Cultural Experience Line, Creative Culture Line, Leisure and Shopping Line and Night Viewing Line.

Zhang Huiguang, chief of the municipal travel bureau, said the bureau has drawn up a travel plan for the operation of the Olympic Green's central area after the Games, and is preparing to develop the area in to an Olympic-theme park.

Zhang said other tourist service facilities will be built in the central area, including food and shopping outlets, a travel information center and a convenient traffic system.



One of the special Olympic bus routes, Olympic line 2 starts from Qianmen

Special transportation carries visitors to the venues

By Annie Wei

The city is to run services on 28 special bus routes during the Paralympics.

The buses will run non-stop from 28 designated stations across the city to the Olympic Green Park, where passengers can disembark at a stop a few minutes walk from the National Stadium, a spokesperson for the Beijing Municipal Committee of Communications, said.

On opening day, the buses will carry passengers to transfer stops for seven subway lines running around the clock and 100 standby bus routes.

The 28 services are reserved for and free to people holding opening ceremony tickets, and staff and volunteers with valid documents.

Some existing bus routes will detour or suspend operations on

opening day to ensure traffic runs smoothly around the stadium.

Passengers who take subway line 5 need to get off at Datun station to change buses: goes the same for line 10 passengers at Bei Tucheng station.

Thirty-four additional bus routes will operate, with some running around the clock, until September 20 to make up for the relative shortage of public transport around Olympic sports venues.

Line 8, set up for the Games, is not open to the public. The subway station opened a special carriage for disabled passengers on line 8. Disabled passenger should call the hotline number 6834 5678 for reservations. Passenger can ask volunteers or staff members at the subway station to accompany him or her on the train.

The Olympic Green is a nice place to visit during the coming National Holiday. CFP Photos



For many who will arrive over the next few months, they may be curious to explore and collect memorabilia. From this week through the end of September, *Beijing Today* will present a series of guides. The guides include current popular sites for food and shopping, and will lead visitors to sites of interest too new for the guidebooks. We hope you can feel the pulse of the city and dig deep into Beijing's daily life.



Folk Activities

Chinese knotting – longevity knots

Chinese knotting is a decorative handicraft art that dates back to the Tang and Song Dynasty. The novel "Dream of the Red Chamber" talks extensively about the art.

There are many different shapes of Chinese knots. The most common being flowers, birds, dragons, fish, and even shoes. Culturally they are expected to ward off evil spirits similar to bagua mirrors or act as good-luck charms for Chinese newlyweds.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 10, 9:30 am – noon

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration is important)

Fabric accumulated art

Accumulated fabric art is a traditional form of fabric art dating back to the Tang Dynasty. Emperor Qianlong in the Qing Dynasty once enjoyed the art and created pieces for his mother.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 7, 2-5 pm

Cost: 150 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration is important)

Hand-pulled noodles and dumplings

This class gives you the chance to make longevity noodles, which are different from the Shaanxi noodles and are made for birthdays, especially for the elderly. You also have the chance to make dumplings.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 9, 7-9 pm

Cost: 200 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration is important)

Ink and wash painting class

Chinese painting is one of the oldest continuous artistic traditions in the world. Ink and wash painting is an East Asian type of brush painting. It is also known as wash painting.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 8, 7:30-9:30 pm

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration is important)

Calligraphy

The calligraphy course is set up for non mandarin-speaking students and conducted in English, covering everything from the meaning and evolution of the characters and culture to the history and music of the period.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 9, 10-11:30 am

Cost: 120 yuan

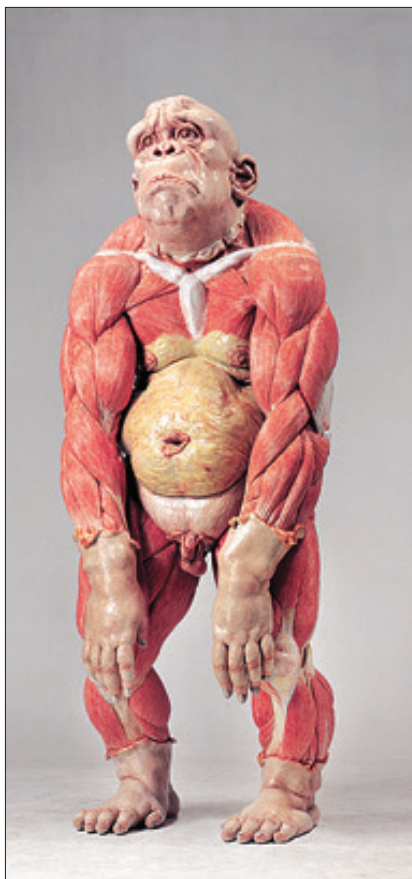
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration is important)

Exploring art and the market



I Love Tian'anmen, Beijing, Wang Jin, 2006-2007



Giant Ape, Cao Hui, 2008

By He Jianwei

More than 100 galleries from 20 countries will join at the National Agricultural Exhibition Center from September 6 to 9, an opportunity to unveil the contemporary art market in 2008.

Since Dong Mengyang prepared the first Contemporary Art Expo and used the gallery as the main participating body five years ago, Art Beijing has become a platform for contemporary art in China.

Photo Beijing, the first Asian Contemporary Photography Art Fair which concentrates on the photo art market, is one of the highlights in this year's Art Beijing.

Photo Beijing is designed to promote the development of contemporary photo art in China and Asia. Photo Beijing 2008 will be held in Hall 5.

The fair consists of 20 photo art corridors and art galleries. Curator Wu Chenzu put together the plan for the exhibition of the contemporary photo art.

This exhibition concentrates on world photo art, especially from the Asian academic point of view. The art world in different themes and backgrounds will intercommunicate on the same stage.

It is the first time for Photo Beijing to strike a pose on the stage, hoping to stir a response from the contemporary photo market as well as promoting the development of the market.

The theme exhibition remains the same as last year under the title of "Art Breakthrough." The organizer of Art Beijing hopes that the whole exhibition will not only prospect the art future academically, but also explore a new expansion in the Chinese contemporary art market, thus leading to a new orientation of collection and investment.

The Theme Exhibition of Art Beijing 2008 will be curated by Zhao Li. It will adopt "Public Art" as the theme.

Today, art is getting closer and closer to people's lives. Public art will become a trend of future art development. Sui Jianguo, Qu Guangci, Xiang Jing, Cao Hui, Chen Wenling, Li

Hui, Yin Zhaoyang, Chen to the exhibition. The art works or new creations, the mutual relationship b works and exhibiting space

Art Beijing

Where: National Agricultural Exhibition Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 6-9

Admission: 50 yuan

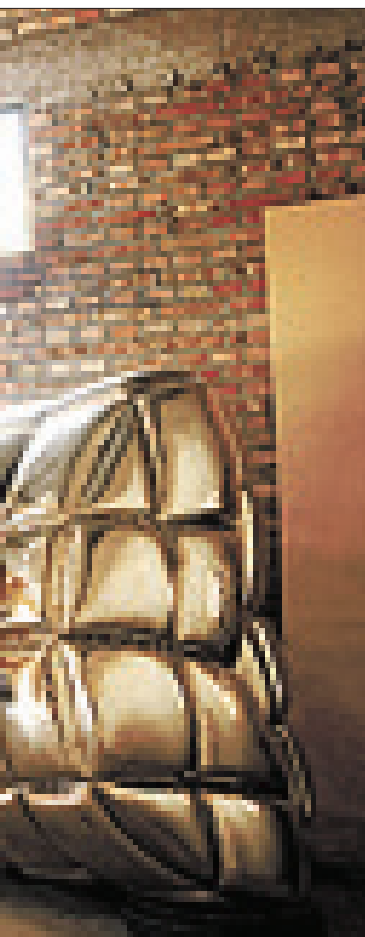
September 9



Stand at the Knoll, Qu C

Beijing

et



Photos provided by Art Beijing

Ke and Zhang Dali will be invited
ists will display their representative
The event pays much attention to
between art works and art world, art
e and art world and exhibition hall.

culture Exhibition Center, 16 Dong-
g
y, 10 am – 7 pm
from September 6-8; 10 yuan for



Guangci, 2007



Legend, Yin Zhaoyang, 2008

Old meets new – Zhao Bo solo exhibition

By Zhang Nan

Zhao has prepared 15 new paintings that will be on display in his exhibition. A graduate of the Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts and a part of the "New Realists," Zhao demonstrates extraordinary talent in his interpretation of traditional realism within a contemporary stage.

Born in the 1970s, Zhao grew up in a country of immense transition – bridging the divide of West versus East, Mao jackets versus Gucci, hutong versus skyscrapers. It is this tension between the societal juxtapositions of life under the collectivism of Mao's rule and that of post-1979 Deng Xiaoping reforms that lends poignancy to his works.

Having recently moved from Chongqing to Beijing, Zhao has witnessed firsthand the advent of the name brand culture and its insidious infiltration into the urban landscape.

He depicts his nation nearly choking in the suffocating grasp of fast food restaurants, corporate mascots, soda brands and so on. Highlighting his concern with the frantic and multi-layered development of the contemporary Chinese city, Zhao Bo positions figures within an incongruous space.

He hints at the impossibility of such an excessively-cluttered cityscape by excluding solid ground. Instead, it is the compilation of the familiar products of our time – Adidas stores, Pepsi billboards, Volkswagen Beetles – that serve as a reference point for reality.

"I'm just showcasing the contrast of modern and the past in the works," Zhao said, "It's not a kind of irony. There are so many foreign brands in China. My works give them a place to come together with traditional culture and people." In his works, all the figures wear Chinese-style clothes. In some of them, foreign brands are combined with Chinese

Exhibition

Subtlety

In a group of commissioned works from nine leading contemporary artists, experience a diverse range of ideas, thought processes, and sensibilities. The works ask the viewer to respond to their subtle nature and consider what distinguishes enduring art from temporal trends, the importance of the search and a desire to build on what has gone before.

Where: Platform China Contemporary Art Institute Main Space A & B, 319-1 East End Art Zone A, Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang

When: Until October 12, daily except Monday 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6432 0091

Huashan Project

Huashan is a scenic, closed, space with only one exit, making it inexplicable to baojiang as well as both strange and familiar time-related behavior.

Where: T Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Until September 20, daily except Monday 10:30 am – 6 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 8456 1529

Affairs Surpass Time – Gu Han Solo Exhibition

Where: 3818 Cool Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Until September 12, daily except Monday 10:30 am – 6:30 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 8688 2525, 8456 6664

Blooming – Zhang Zhen Solo Exhibition

Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2



New Millennium Gallery



Youfeng de Rizi (Windy Days), Zhao Bo, 2008

characters and villages. "These works deliver happy scenes," he said

For the Olympic Games, Zhao introduced the Beijing Olympic symbol "Chinese Seal" and a Fuwa into his works. "It's a response to the Games, even though I do not have any special feeling for the five dolls."

Where: Chinese Contemporary Gallery, 798 Art District

When: August 30 – October 15

Admission: free

Tel: 8456 2421

Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Until September 26, daily 10:30 am – 6:30 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6432 4122, 13911166261

Mumbai: A Laundry Field

Where: Galleria Continua, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Until September 30, daily except Monday 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6436 1005

X – Blind Spot

Where: Room A, Long March Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Until October 18, daily except Monday 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6438 7107, 6431 7799

Painting Selection – Wan Liya Solo Exhibition

Where: TS1 gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Until September 27, daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6433 1588

Subodh Gupta – Line of Control

Where: Arario Beijing, Brewery Art Complex, Beihuqu Lu, Andingmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

When: Until September 9, daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 5202 3800

Snowscapes and Scenery – Zhang Jian Solo Exhibition

Where: China Blue Gallery, 3/F, Building 7, Yigou Space, 16 A Baizhuan, Chaoyang

When: Until September 25, daily 9:30 am – 5:30 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 8774 6332

Latitude and Longitude +0.000 – Wu Debin Solo Exhibition

Where: 9 Cube Art Museum, Brewery International Art Garden, Beihuqu Lu, Chaoyang

When: Until September 23, daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 5202 3969

Continued on page 14 ...

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14 Outdoors

Jinshanling to Simatai

The hike will begin at Jinshanling, a well-known part of the Great Wall which has usually been the setting for movies. Following the Great Wall, you will arrive at Simatai. The trip takes about three to four hours, which is challenging and exciting.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: September 7, 8 am – 6 pm

Cost: 400 yuan

Tel: 13910025516 (reservations are essential)

Forbidden City and Tian'anmen Square

The 3.5-hour guided walk will provide informative explanations of the Forbidden City, not only covering the history, architecture, fengshui and rituals and life in the Forbidden City, but also the planning of the imperial walled capital and present-day development

Where: Meet on the ground floor of KFC restaurant (next to the Laoshe Teahouse, Qianmen Xi Dajie)

When: September 5, 9 am – noon

Cost: 150 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

tion at CCC is important)

Cock Crow Post Town and Tianmo Desert

This day tour explores the closest desert to Beijing, Tianmo and the Ming-period Cockcrow Postal Town.

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (CCC) (Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) for bus transportation.

When: September 7, 9 am – 6 pm

Cost: 350 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (Registration at CCC is important)

Royal Canal boat tour to the Summer Palace

This boat and walking tour provides an opportunity to see a bit of everything of the capital, both historical sites and the daily life of Beijingers. Cruise along the imperial canal in a traditional-style motorized canopy boat past the Beijing Zoo, Beijing Aquarium, and the Purple Bamboo Garden.

Where: meet in the square of the Beijing Exhibition Center, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: September 10, 9 am – 3:30 pm

Cost: 380 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)



Book talk

The City in my Reporter's Notepad

The book is written by Wang Jun, a journalist stationed in Beijing. Based on his past four years of interviews with insiders, architects, officials and ordinary people, he wrote the book, revealing all problems, conflicts and other controversial issues during the urbanization of Beijing. Wang comes to talk about his new book.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 10, 7:30-9:30 pm

Cost: 50 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Kid's club

Kid's books are selected and read by Bookworm's own teacher-storytellers to promote a love of reading outside the classroom.

Where: The Bookworm, 4 Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 7, 11 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6586 9507

Movie

Sentimental Destinies (Les Destinees Sentimentales)

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 5, 5 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Hiroshima, My Love (Hiroshima Mon Amour)

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 5, 8 and 12, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Camaron

Where: Beijing Institue Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 5, 7 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 5879 9666

Donkey Skin (Peau Diane)

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 7, 3 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Madame Bovary

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 7, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Mainland, Not Mainstream

Where: Cherry Lane Movie, Yugong Yishan, 3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Xicheng

When: September 7, 8 pm

Admission: 20-40 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Gladiator

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyan, Xicheng

When: September 9, 9 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6617 3231

Nightlife

Local Legend

Three of Beijing's brightest forces in hip-hop will perform into the night.

Where: Star Live, 79 Hepin Xi Lu, Dongcheng

When: September 6, 9:30 pm

Admission: 50-60 yuan

Tel: 5123 3866

Rooftop Reggae Sunday

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyan, Xicheng

When: September 7, 9 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6617 3231

Waterland Guanyin: Sudden infant and Liu Qiwei

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the drive-in movie theater park, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 9, 9 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 8196 4820

Swing Party

The Beijing Big Band was formed in 2007 and plays authentic big band era music in a genuine vintage style. The band is led by Adam Lee from the US and LU Xiaolin from China and consists of 19 musicians, mostly from China and a few from the US. The band is a local favorite for dancers and music lovers alike.

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Coutyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

When: September 11, 9 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Stage

Concert

China Broadcasting Chinese Orchestra Concert

Who: China Broadcasting Chinese Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 5, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Japanese Folk Rock Musician Kina Shoukichi Beijing Concert

Who: Kina Shoukichi

Where: Haidian Theater, 28 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian

When: September 6, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-380 yuan

Tel: 6254 6839

The Romeros Guitar Quartet Concert

Who: Romeros Guitar Quartet

Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 11, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Concert of St. Florian Boys Choir

Who: St. Florian Boys Choir

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: September 12-13, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-1,000 yuan

Tel: 6605 7006

Mid-Autumn Concert of Piano and Violin Classics

Who: Sheng Zhongguo and Seta Hiroko

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: September 12, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-800 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

The Night of the Full Moon

– Mid-autumn Concert for Chinese Traditional Music

Who: Orchestra of China Opera and Dance-Drama Theater

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: September 13, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-800 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

La Scala Philharmonic Orchestra Concert

Who: Conducted by Myung-Whun Chung

Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 13, 7:30 pm

Admission: 280-1,680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

The Night of the Full Moon

Who: China Central Chinese Ensemble

Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 14, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Night in Beijing

Who: China National Symphony Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 18, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-480 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Night of Asia – Star-studded Olympic-Themed Concert

Who: 100 pop stars of Asia

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: September 16, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6835 4455

Dance

My Dream

Who: China Disabled People's Performing Arts Troupe

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: September 8-14,

Admission: 80-980 yuan

Tel: 6501 1854

Opera

Large-Scale Multimedia Chinese Symphonic Picture Riverside Scene at the Qingming Festival

Who: China Symphony Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 10, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,080 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Kun Opera: 1699 Peach Blossom Fan

Who: Jiangsu Performance Group

Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 12-14, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-400 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By Li Jing)

Four treasures for learning

By Gan Tian

The world was impressed by the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics, where traditional Chinese stationery appeared like magic. It included the four "treasures": the writing brush, paper, ink-stick and ink-stone. *Beijing Today* suggests the best places to go to learn this art form.

Treasure the study

By Gan Tian

Writing Brush

Among the various tools of calligraphy, the writing brush is special to China. While brushes are varied, the white goat hair, black rabbit hair and yellow weasel hair brushes are the three major types. With regard to function, they are classified into three groups: hard, soft and mix. The brush handle can be made of bamboo, wood, lacquer or porcelain; precious materials, such as a mother-of-pearl inlay, ivory and jade, can also be used.

Ink stick

The ink stick is the unique pigment

used for Chinese traditional painting and calligraphy. Initially, stage natural ink or half-natural ink was generally used. It was during the Han Dynasty (206BC-220AD) that artificial ink appeared. At that time the most famous ink stick was Yumi-mo, which was produced at Qianyang in Shaanxi Province. The raw materials of the ink stick were pine, oil and lacquer.

Paper

It is widely believed that paper was invented by Cai Lun in the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220).

In the Tang and Song Dynasties, the paper-producing industry was

thriving and top-quality products appeared in succession. During the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) Xuan-zhi, which was produced in Jingxian County, Xuancheng Prefecture, Anhui Province, became the special paper for painting and calligraphy and was regarded as "the king of paper."

Inkstone

Inkstone is the most important of the "four treasures of study."

Because of its solid texture, it lasts and can be handed down from generation to generation.

In the ruins of primitive society,

archaeologists discovered simple stone ink slabs that required a pestle to grind pigments. After artificial ink sticks appeared in the Han Dynasty, the pestle gradually disappeared. In the Han there were pottery, lacquer and copper ink slabs, as well as stone ink slabs. Among the stone ink slabs, the round tripod pieces were most common. During the Wei, Jin and Northern and Southern Dynasties (220-581), round tripod porcelain ink slabs were in vogue. It was in the Sui and Tang dynasties (581-907) that Piyong inkstone with circular legs appeared.

Haidian Book City for the serious writer

By Wang Yu

Shops in Haidian Book City are the place to learn calligraphy and practice it seriously. The main street here is famous for selling these products to the biggest population in the city during the past 15 years. Rebuilt last year, the market consists of 16 buildings. You can find several small street-level shops selling cheap Xuan-paper on both sides of the street but the well-marked Xueqin calligraphy and painting society is recommended.

The shop is named after Cao Xueqin, the famous Chinese novelist who wrote *The Story of Stone* which is one of the four classic literary masterpieces of China. Every kind of writing brush is found here such as Baiyun and Shanshui, brushes made of different materials with the cheapest one at about 4 yuan. Besides whole pieces of paper, notebooks which are made of Xuan-paper are also available at a low price and accessories like penholders, brush pots, ink boxes and paperweights.

Professional calligraphers and painters make up the core-buyers at the shop. Stone seals and high grade ink stones are displayed on the counter.

"Unlike those reissued vintage things at 798, the goods here really inherit the old styles especially the salespeople," a netizen named Yingjing Taozi wrote on dianping.com "Besides, the prices are attractive."

Haidian Book City

Where: 36 Haidian Xi Lu, Haidian District

Open: 8:30 am - 6:30 pm

Tel: 6253 4448



Photo by Wang Yu

Pick Chinese pens

By Zheng Lu

There are not many shops open for the four Treasures of Study in the Panjiayuan Curio Market, but one does specialize in selling the Chinese pens that are a must-have for amateurs of calligraphy and Chinese painting.

On the wall outside the shop hangs a huge brush pen that is said to be the biggest in Beijing measuring two meters in length. Zhang Mucheng, the shopkeeper, makes all of the brush pens. The shop is not big and can only allow in three to four people at a time but still it has attracted innumerable visitors. Many famous people in the painting and calligraphy field such as Lin Xiu, president of the Beijing Calligraphers Association have handwritten the inscription, "Mucheng Brush Pen Shop" after using the store's pens.

It is unusual to find Zhang Mucheng in the shop since he is always busy producing the pens at home. Instead visitors will see Zhang Qiaolin, his son, the third generation of the Zhang pen producers. The craftsman family has made brush pens for more than 100 years since they first began in the Qing Dynasty. Their hometown Huzhou, Zhejiang Province, one of the best-known places for producing the pens has endowed them with their flawless technique.

There are two kinds of materials in the brushes, one is weasel hair and the other is goat hair. According to the function, they are divided into two categories, calligraphy and painting but the classifications do not end there for there are 200 sub-classifications!

For a shop so unique in its field, you might worry about the price of the goods. But that is one of the reasons it has so many returning customers and orders from abroad. "The cheapest pens are 1.5 yuan while the most expensive ones are sold for several thousands. But average prices range from five to 20 yuan," Zhang Qiaolin said. He added that the bigger the quantity the cheaper the prices.

Besides the traditional brush pens, the service of producing pens using a baby's fetal hair is also available. "It can be kept as commemorate souvenir or put into practical use," he said. Zhang Qiaolin is confident in the quality of his pens.

The shop accepts credit cards. Other items in the Four Treasures of the Study can be found here as well. The price of them compared to other Chinese stationery stores is friendlier. Weekends are always the busiest days for the shop. If you do not want to find yourself squeezed in a crowd of customers, it is a better to come on weekdays.

Mucheng Brush Pen Shop

Where: Ding 88, 18 Huawei Li, Panjiayuan Antique Market, Chaoyang District

Open: 9 am - 5:30 pm

Tel: 5120 4603

Continued on page 16 ...

Photo by Zheng Lu

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Brushes in Shi's Gallery

House of the Four Treasures of Study

By Milo Lee

Many foreigners find Chinese a difficult language to learn, but as an art form, its calligraphy has gained many admirers. Calligraphy in China dates back as far as 2,000 years ago. Tools used to write it have evolved over the years, but the essentials remain the same: a writing brush, ink stick, paper and ink slab.

The brush is the most important tool of the four treasures, so choosing a good one may determine the outcome when practicing calligraphy. In Beijing, there is no better place to find a brush than at Wenfang Sibao Tang, House of the Four Treasures of Study. This calligraphy shop sells brushes made by Li Fushou, one of the most prestigious brush makers. Li joined his father's workshop as an apprentice when he was 14 years old. Li soon grasped the core techniques of making a top-notch brush. In 1925, he became friends with some of China's most famous painters like Qi Baishi and Tang Dingzhi. His shop became famous after he specially designed some brushes for them. Now Li Fushou's writhing brush company is one of the biggest in the business.

Along with the first treasure of study, Wenfang Sibao Tang also sells ink, ink slabs and paper. What catches the customer's eye the most when they walk into the store are the paintings hanging from the ceiling and all kinds of handicraft works and seals. Many traditional Chinese painters have signed contracts with Wenfang Sibao Tang to supply them for their latest works, most of which are very suitable for decorating a house. Handicrafts here include a very unique type of painting skill. Artists use a special painting brush to draw all sorts of pictures inside a glass globe through a small hole. Not only does it require excellent dexterity, but it does not allow the least of mistakes, or the whole glass globe will go to waste. Seals are another important culture element in traditional calligraphy and painting, and calligraphers and painters use seals to brand their works. Customers can have a seal created with their name on it at the shop designed on the spot by a seal artist.

Wenfang Sibao Tang

Where: 99 Liulichang Dong Jie, Xuanwu District
Open: 9 am – 6 pm
Tel: 6317 9680

Brushes and paper fans in Wenfang Sibao Tang
Photo by Milo Lee

Rongbao Zhai has treasures

By Venus Lee

Rong Bao Zhai, an old and famous shop, was built in 1672. Its predecessor was Song Zhu Zhai, which mainly dealt in artistic articles including Four Treasures of the Study, kinds of writing paper and celebration hanging scrolls. In 1894, Song Zhu Zhai changed its name to Rong Bao Zhai with the creative idea of "meeting friends with culture and prosperity

being a treasure" but the business continues. Since then, Rong Bao Zhai set up a workshop for watercolor and woodblock printing and ultimately started its business of wood-block printing.

Rong Bao Zhai is an old-fashioned and antique-style building with carved beams and painted rafters. A life-size ink slab, which lies in the main hall, greets visitors after walking through the door. Painting colors, seal paste and stationery are also accessible in the main hall. The building has two departments: the Business Department and Woodblock Printing Technique Department. The Business Department is the major trading department consisting of the East Building and the West Building. A good catalog of the East Building includes articles of the Four Treasures of the Study, woodblock printings, arts and crafts, metal and stone tablets, paintings and calligraphy works, antique ink slabs and ink sticks, stone seals and carvings as well as mahogany ornaments and decorations. The West Building of the

Business Department provides various writing brushes, Xuan paper, oil paintings, water-color paintings, plate printings by modern artists, fold arts and crafts, books of fine arts, articles and services for fine arts.

The artists of Rong Bao Zhai developed woodblock printing techniques to reproduce famous paintings and calligraphy works. The Woodblock Printing Technique Department introduces the complicated procedures. The prints are made according to the strokes of the original paintings, including their degrees of thickness, curve, softness and hardness, as well as changes of colors, deep or light and plates of copying. The duplicates come very close to the original works by using similar paper, ink and colors of the original works and then printed using those woodcut plates in light to deep colors.

Rong Bao Zhai

Where: 19, Liulichang Xi Jie, Xuanwu District.
Open: 9 am – 6 pm
Tel: 6303 6090

Brushes box in Shi's Gallery
Photo provided by Shi's Gallery

Top brands at Shi's Gallery

By Zhang Dongya

People nowadays live a mundane life relying on keyboard input and sometimes they yearn for traditional study. Calligraphy is an important part of Chinese traditional culture.

Wenfang Yihao, the Shi's Gallery, boasts the top brands of the grand Chinese treasures, is a good place to enjoy the traditional study in modern times.

After its first gallery opened in the Beijing Industrial Arts Building in 2006, it established its second outlet in the Grand Hyatt last October.

When stepping into the gallery, it is like entering the delicate study of an ancient celebrity. It features all the articles of a traditional gallery which are supremely elegant and refined, including the four treasures of the study, and some rare curios like the "Tianhuang Stone" Carving and the "Chicken-blood Stone" Seal. It also features other valuable ancient articles like Zishahu, the purple clay teapot, Pu Eeh Tea of old time, and antique

furniture of Ming style.

Some of the articles are from ancient times, such as the tooth-carving brush pot, the brush pen made from rhinoceros horn and the book-box made of Hainan Huanghuali wood. All date back to the Qing Dynasty.

With all the articles contained in fancy wrap boxes, they make perfect choices for gifts. Especially the set of Wenfang Sibao containing two writing brushes of Langhao and Yanghao, two ink-sticks of black and red, paper, ink stone, seal and seal paste.

Targeting high-end customers, the gallery sells top-grade articles and the price is comparatively high.

Also offered is an ordering and processing service, but the designs and patterns are fixed and only the size is flexible.

The Gallery in the Grand Hyatt has an external windowed corridor with some big articles on display. A

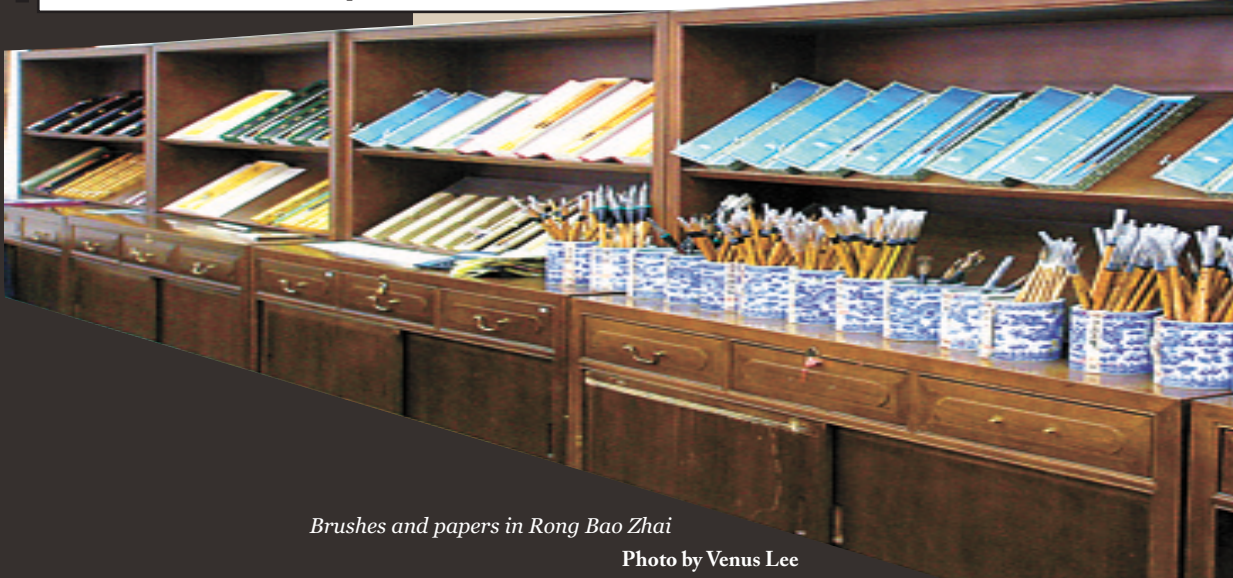
staff member said they are expected to expand next year.

Shi's Gallery in Beijing Industrial Arts Building

Where: F4, Beijing Industrial Arts Building, 200 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6526 0918

Shi's Gallery in Grand Hyatt

Where: GG12, Grand Hyatt, 1 Dongchang'an Jie, Dongcheng District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6526 0918



Brushes and papers in Rong Bao Zhai

Photo by Venus Lee

The main hall of Shi's Gallery
Photos provided by Shi's Gallery

Mid-Autumn mooncakes are here

17

Food

By Gan Tian

This September 14 is the Mid-Autumn Festival, the most important event in the city since the Olympics, and residents and travelers are both curious about what new cakes will debut this season.

Beijing Today has found some of the season's most popular. The new tastes and designs are sure to be a holiday hit.



Photo by Zheng Lu

Taste sweet snow in autumn

By Zheng Lu

If you are tired of traditional moon cakes, then maybe it is time for something new.

The Snowy Moon Cake looks cool and tastes like its name. It was invented by the Hong Kong Taipan Bakery. The new cake was an instant hit and became a symbol of the Hong Kong food industry.

There are as many as 30 kinds of snowy moon cakes. The one filled with Mung Bean Paste comes most recom-

mended.

Beijing has only one supermarket which sells the snowy moon cakes. In addition to Taipan, there is another brand called Meixin which also has snowy moon cakes with ingredients from Taipan. The price of Meixin Snowy Moon Cakes range from 208 to 288 yuan, while the Taipan cakes cost 228 to 468 yuan.

Sam's Club

Where: 158 Fushi Lu, Shijingshan

Open: 8 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6888 9556

Enjoy moon cake with tea

By Venus Lee

Tenfu Tea is selling a series of tea moon cakes. The Shangyue series is packed with eight moon cakes with tea and fruit ingredients. There are two moon cakes with Tieguanyin tea and pomelo, two with black tea and lychee, two with green tea and plum and two with butter tea. The moon cake wrapper contains OLIGO Prebiotics.

Tenfu Tea

Where: any Tenfu Tea store

Price: 128 yuan



Photo provided by Tenfu Tea

Back to childhood

By Li Jing

From Hello Kitty, to Snoopy and Winnie the Pooh, popular cartoon characters are now making their appearance on moon cakes.

The cartoon character-shaped moon cakes at Westin are shaped like Hello Kitty. The moon cakes come in four colors: black, white, yellow and red. The black one is chocolate with hazelnut, the white one is kumquat paste, the yellow one is milk and egg yolk paste and the red one is jumble bead with plum. Four flavors are packaged in a cartoon-

style box with the text "Fun Moon."

"Fun Moon" is sold at 138 yuan. The Westin will donate 20 yuan from each package to a charity to aid and support disadvantaged children.

Westin

Where: Westin, 9b Financial Street, Xicheng

Tel: 6629 7777, 6606 8866 ext 777



Photo provided by Westin Financial Street

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味
中国
Taste Of China

Discover the exquisite tastes of Chinese regional cuisine. From fiery Hunan "Braised fish head with chopped chilis" to popular "Cantonese claypot rice" and must try favourites from Beijing's Imperial cuisine such as the world renowned "Beijing Duck". Embark on a culinary journey of daily changing flavours and tastes.

Sunday - Thursday
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Including free flow of soft drinks
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Editor: Gan Tian Designer: Zhao Yan

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18

Food



Photo provided by Breadtalk

Bamboo carbon

By Zhang Dongya

Mooncakes in BreadTalk this year come in four special kinds, Cantonese style, Milk-and-fruit, Crisp Souzhou style and Taiwanese style. The bamboo carbon mooncake of Taiwanese is unique in flavor.

The bamboo carbon mooncakes are made of butter, edible bamboo carbon power and brown sugar. Edible bamboo carbon power is recently a popular ingredient and can absorb body toxins and improve digestion. It also adds black color and chic flavor to the cakes.

BreadTalk has three flavors: coffee, egg yolk with date paste and sesame. Refined Nan- yang coffee, date paste and top-grade sesame make the cakes palatable and tasty.

BreadTalk

Where: BreadTalk, Joy City B1, 131 Xidan Bei Jie, Xicheng

Price: 688 yuan per box with 350gx1, 180gx4, 80gx9

How much is a mooncake this year?

By Gan Tian

Gold medals are not the domain of Olympic athletes alone. Certain lucky mooncake buyers may be able to get their hands on some as well.

Various mooncakes are already on sale, but some people are complaining that the seasonal delicacies have grown too expensive this year.

"Mooncakes are already gifts for exchange, but some brands are too expensive," Zhu Lin, a Beijing resident, said. She said some mooncakes cost as much as 1,500 yuan (US \$180) each, a sum equal to a third of her monthly salary.

Some brands cost about 20-30 yuan (US \$2.40-3.60), but the cost of packaged cakes is much higher.

Zhu said her husband and son do not like to eat mooncakes, "But my 88-year-old grandmother likes them and I will buy some for her this time every year."

Some shoppers are choosing to purchase their mooncakes online.

eBay's Each-Net.com, one of the country's leading e-business platforms, said 500 mooncake auctions end in sale each week, about 60 percent more than last year.

Overseas Chinese also observe the traditional festival and their relatives at home often mail mooncakes to them.

Beijing Capital International Airport has reminded passengers not to take mooncake boxes containing bottles of alcohol on flights.

Many passengers are taking mooncakes on board as gifts for friends and family. At least four or five brands of mooncake gift boxes also contain bottles of liquor, airport authorities said.

According to aviation security rules, passengers are forbidden to take any alcohol onto planes. Mooncakes must be left behind or, if time permits, sent through checked luggage.



Photo provided by Maikangliao

Low sugar, and cheap

By Jin Zhu

As a professional diabetes-care institution in Beijing, Maikangliao is offering healthy options including moon cakes with stuffing of low-sugar green tea and red bean paste, taro paste, black sesame paste, chestnut paste and jujube and white lotus paste. These cakes are sold at 10 yuan each, or come packaged at 200 yuan a box.

Maikangliao

Where: 153 Pingan Da Jie, Xicheng District
Tel: 6615 2433

Kitty strikes again

By Zhang Dongya

Hello Kitty fans will be excited to hear BreadTalk has put out a new series of Hello Kitty Moon cakes.

The box contains six moon cakes in the popular Sanrio shapes. Each of the six Hello Kitty cakes are different flavors. There is one Matcha cake with bean paste and two cakes with fresh blueberry and cranberry.

The other three are grapefruit, cherry-and-wine and Hokkaido milk.

All six cakes are coated in milk and fruit. The butter and egg give the moon cakes a more "Western" smell, as is BreadTalk's style.

BreadTalk

Where: BreadTalk, B1 the Joy City, 131 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng District
Price: 128 yuan per box with 60gx6



Photo provided by Breadtalk

Animals and adventure in the southern woods

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Travel Beijing

By Jackie Zhang

Yufa town in Daxing District in the southern section of Beijing divides the Yongding watercourse into two parts. One part belongs to Hebei Province and the other belongs to Beijing. Since Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), it has been an important entrance into Beijing. In Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1636-1912), the area was where the royal barns were located.

Now, the royal barns area has become a modern town, with forests, wildlife zoos, leisure park and farm-style gardens.



Lions in the Beijing Wildlife Zoo walk freely around tourists.

CFP Photos

Home for wildlife

The Beijing Wildlife Zoo is in the forest outside Yufa Town. As many as 200 species of wild animals are raised in the zoo, with 10 kinds of wild pheasants and birds native to China.

To protect visitors, all viewers are required to ride in a cage-like bus. Tigers, lions, bears, wolves and baboons live together in the open area. In order to control the population, the numbers of animals are kept in strict balance.

The working staff hang meat on the iron fence of the bus to attract animals to come up to the bus. The feeding offers a great opportunity to get a close-up look at the strong and powerful creatures in a safe environment.

There is an area for visitors to watch animals outside the confines of the bus. Tamer animals like deer and squirrels also live in the area. Visitors can play with them and feed them. Almost three dozen animal halls are built in the zoo for different kinds of animals to live.

Pandas and golden monkeys are on display in the area. It is the first zoo to show the Qian golden monkeys, and a group of artificially bred Chuan golden monkeys are also available for viewing.

Entertainment programs are screened in the animal-show area.

Getting there:

The bus 943 at Yongdingmen Stop and 937 Branch 2 at Baiyun Lu Stop are bound to the Beijing Wildlife Zoo. If you drive yourself, follow the Jingkai Expressway. The zoo is on the east side of the highway.

Open: 8:30 am – 5 pm

Admission: 50 yuan per student, 80 per adult

Tel: 9696 2853 60

Sand Sculpture Park

Noah Boat Sand Sculpture Park is located next to the Yongding Watercourse. The river has dried up, but there are still trees along its banks. The Gu'an Bridge crosses the ravine. On its west side is the country's largest collection of

sand sculptures.

Some sculptures are related to the Olympiad; some are cartoon figures; animals, historical figures, terracotta warriors and famous architectural sites like the Great Wall. Some sculptures are made according to artists' imagination and inspiration. A hundred sand sculptures are shown in the park, which are created by over 80 artists from Heilongjiang Province.

Sand sculptures are easily damaged, so each is not too high. The sculptures all have a triangular base to guarantee their steadiness.

There are entertainment areas in the park where you can make your own sand sculptures yourself.

Getting there:

Drive along the Jingkai Expressway. Turn to north at Gu'an Bridge. The park is 200 meters away from the bridge.

Open: 8:30 am – 5 pm

Admission: 50 yuan per student, 60 yuan per adult

Village tour

Xihuangfa Village has 150 sunshine greenhouses where it plants melons, which it sells in markets and on the Internet. Tourists are allowed to enter and pick their own.

"Most of the tourists in the village come to pick fruits and vegetables. Few of them stay in the village," Guo Yidong, a villager, said. "They always go to the wildlife park first and then come to pick fruit."

Village tourism is underdeveloped. "We don't rely on tourism much. Usually, every family has its own fields. Most of the time we plant corn. We work in our fields and live off the produce. Some families have many fields and do not have time to accept tourists."

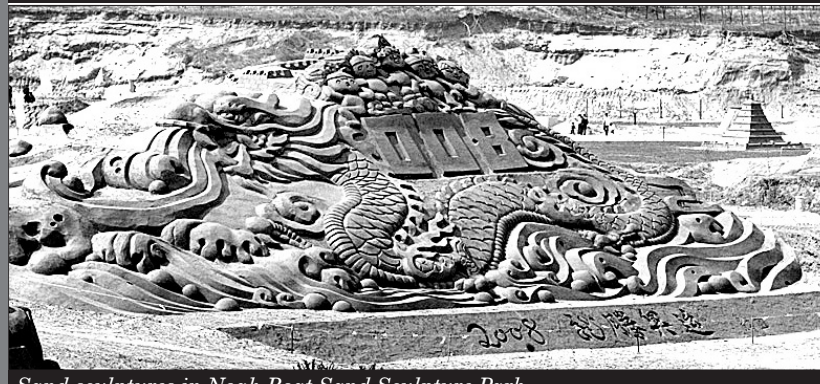
Try the local village food in a villager's home. Some are quite traditional and represent local life. "Banliuyua" is made by mixing sprouts of willow leaves with different seasonings.

Getting there:

Drive along the Jingkai Expressway. From Yuquanying Huandao, there is a distance of about 30 kilometers. Take the Lihua Bridge exit from the expressway and drive another half-kilometer to Xihuangfa Village. It is 35 kilometers from the Yufa Toll Gate to Yufa Town. The Beijing Wildlife Zoo is one kilometer from the town.



Visitors can watch animals up close.



Sand sculptures in Noah Boat Sand Sculpture Park.

Editor: He Jianwei Designer: Yang Gen

BEIJING TODAY

Exotic atmosphere of Qingdao's coast

By He Jianwei

Qingdao, the birthplace of Taoism, maintains its collection of temples and sites of worship.

In 1897, Germany occupied Qingdao by force. Japanese invaders took it over in 1914 and continued the colonial rule. The colonial period had left foreign buildings in the city.

Visitors who climb the nearby mountains can see many red-roof German-style houses scattered throughout the green woods.

Qingdao is not a typical Chinese city. It retains a simple, small town feel.



Visitors can play with dolphins in Qingdao Aquarium.

CFP Photos

Booze and buds International Beer Festival



Cheer with friends at the Qingdao International Beer Festival

The Qingdao International Beer Festival, held at the end of every August, is a celebration of the city's brewing heritage. Because of the Olympic Games, this year's festival has been moved to September 19 to October 5, which coincides with Germany's Oktoberfest.

There are official ceremonies during the daytime to celebrate Qing-

dao's heritage as well as carnival rides, food and games.

In the evening, the event picks up as crowds flock to huge tents set up by each beer company. Sit down and order beer or snacks and watch or participate in karaoke, concerts, auctions or comedy.

First held in 1991, the festival always lasts 16 days and is the nation's largest beer festival. The main venue is Qingdao International Beer City, located in the Shilaoren National Tourism Resort.

The site has an amusement park with large theaters for the festival's literary events, including the Qingdao Beer Palace for tasting and contests, and 20 rides and activity centers.

The locals, young and old, drink beer like soda. Some people even go to buy beer in bulk, carrying plastic bags full of it back home.

Many bistros are scattered throughout the city, each marked with a silver keg in front of its door. These restaurants serve only beer and snacks.

The theme of this year is "Qingdao: Bottoms up with the World" to celebrate the sailing event. The opening ceremony is on September 19, and October 5 marks the end of the carnival.

Getting there: take buses 104, 301, 304, 313, 321 or 362 and get off at Jinjialing station

Where: 195 Xianggang Dong Lu, corner of Xianggang and Haier Lu
Open: 9 am – 10 pm

Admission: 10 yuan from 9 am – 3 pm; 20 yuan from 3 pm– 10 pm

Asia's first Qingdao Aquarium

In November 2002, a 70-year-old British man returned a "dragon tooth" to Qingdao Aquarium. James Gilman, president of the International Committee for Marco Polo Studies in England, lived in Qingdao in 1937 with his family.

When he was five, he went to Qingdao Aquarium with his sister. It was his last trip to the aquarium before his family left China and went back to Britain. He took a tooth from the baby dragon, which he always touched when he went to the aquarium.

The aquarium was Asia's first public aquarium, opened in 1932.

In that era, architects were crazy about European-style buildings. The aquarium's architect, however, chose to model it on a Chinese castle, built on rocks by the sea.

The aquarium was enlarged in 1998, when Qingdao Underwater World started its construction. The Underwater

World consists of four main areas on both sides of Laiyang Lu. Both sides of the water park are connected to each other underneath the street. The visitors are carried inside the tunnel with the help of a moving platform.

The aquarium has the biggest Acrylic cylindrical exhibition tank along with the biggest marine organism specimen exhibition hall in the world.

It also has an underwater passage in which there are several exhibition windows that offer 190-degree, 254-degree and 360-degree viewing. The walls in the underwater passage are painted in fluorescent tones. There are several other facilities for science education, like an open style marine laboratory.

Getting there: take buses 6, 26, 202 or 214 and get off at Luxun Park station

Where: 1 Laiyang Lu

Open: 8 am – 6 pm

Admission: 100 yuan

Tel: 0532-8287 8218



James Gilman returned a "dragon tooth" to Qingdao Aquarium in 2002.

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Birthplace of Taoism Laoshan Mountain

Laoshan Mountain is located on the shore of the Yellow sea. Its highest peak climbs more than 1,100 meters. The mountain is characterized by its imposing canyons, undulating peaks and mystery mist.

It is the highest mountain on China's coastline.

In Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC), the first emperor Qinshihuang once came to visit the site's supernatural beings. In Tang Dynasty (618-907), Emperor Li Longji traveled here to find a medicine for immortality.

Throughout history, many famous scholars have visited Laoshan Mountain and written verses about it.

Three lines along the south, center and east lead visitors to its 220 scenic spots – both historical and natural.

On the first line there are marvelous landscapes and sacred Taoist Palaces. Significant points of interest include the Taiqing Palace, Xufu Islet and Longtan Waterfall.

The Taoist culture and temples of Laoshan Mountain are very famous. At its most prosperous time, there were nine grand palaces, eight temples and 72 nunneries. The Taoists from Laoshan Mountain were famous for their knowledge, legendary skills and stories. The school includes famous historical figures like Qiu Chuji, founder of Dragon Gate Taoism, and Zhang Sanfeng, the creator of Taichi.

Many of the temples and nunneries in the Laoshan Mountains have been destroyed or fallen into ruin. The Taiqing Palace Taoism Temple is the largest and oldest structure still preserved. It was built at the beginning of Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127).

The second line of travel focuses on Beijiushui. The name is derived from how the mountain has nine crooks, which cause

the river to turn nine times.

The river starts from the north side of the Ju Peak, the highest peak of Laoshan Mountain, and flows into the valley. Sites along this line are collectively called the Jiushui Gallery.

Totally different sights await at every corner. The current here is rather swift, while further on the river flows slowly. The flowers, trees and odd rocks on both sides of the river emphasize the elegant beauty of the water. The most famous sight of Beijiushui is Chaoyin Waterfall. During the rainy season the waterfall is quite majestic. Water crashes against the rocks to produce a huge sound similar to waves crashing against the seashore.

The third line includes the Taiping Palace, the Lion Peak, Huayan Temple, Naluoyan Cavern and other sights.

Naluoyan Buddha Cavern is one such scene. It is located in the Naluoyan Hill to the east of Laoshan Mountain. It is a natural granite cavern seven meters wide and 15 meters high. At least 100 people can stand inside at one time.

Its structure is quite unique. The smooth walls and flat ground look almost as though they were pared down by hand. A thin stone protrudes from the wall of the cavern like a Buddha niche. At the top of the cavern is a round and smooth hole. It was said that the hole was made by the supernatural power of Naluoyan Buddha. Sunlight enters the cavern through that hole.

The best time to visit the mountain is from June to September, when the average temperature is 20 to 28 C and there are few clouds.

Getting there: take buses 304, 311 or 312 at the railway station, or take 106, 107 or 123 at Licun

Admission: Taiqing, Yangkou, 70 yuan or 50 yuan in the off season; Beijiushui, 50 yuan or 30 yuan in the off season; Hualou, 10 yuan



Xiaoqingdao Island is shaped like an ancient lute.

Pearl of the sea Xiaoqingdao Island

Located southeast of Zhanqiao Bridge, Xiaoqingdao Island is a pleasant little peninsula. Viewed from the sky, the island is shaped like an ancient lute.

The island has a small park, a few cafes and a white lighthouse. It is a good area for a brief stroll, giving good views of the Huilange Pavilion, the rusting submarine and destroyer of the Naval Museum, and, if the weather is right, the nearby Yellow Island nestled in mist.

Its white octagonal lighthouse

constructed by Germans in 1900 towers over the beautiful rock and green trees. The white marble structure entered use in 1915.

The reflector on the top floor can shed light out 12 nautical miles to alert ships. After liberation, the tower was repaired and restored. The shining of the light after nightfall is considered one of the 10 best scenes in Qingdao City.

Getting there: take buses 6, 26, 304, 311, 312 or 316

Open: 7 am – 6 pm

Admission: 15 yuan from April to October, 10 yuan from November to March next year

Tel: 8286 3944

Tips

1. Nights in Qingdao are beautiful. A gentle sea breeze warms the city. Swimming in the sea or lying on the beach as the sunset casts its last glow is a special experience. After supper, a walk through any of the city's famous squares, such as the Wusi or Music squares, is ideal. The squares are part of city life, where artists do portraits for tourists, children practice bicycle stunts and young couples and their children take a leisurely stroll.

2. The southern coastline of Qingdao is newly developed. It has convenient tourist facilities and hotels and is close to the tourist sites mentioned earlier.



Huayan Temple on Laoshan Mountain



Laoshan Mountain is regarded as the birthplace of Taoism.

CFP Photos

Servicing the Customer Service Department



By Jennifer Petersen

Most mornings, on my way to work, I stop at a food cart near my house for *jianbing*. The middle-aged woman running the operation always recognizes me, remembers that I like the *jianbing* stuffed with bok choy and compliments my Mandarin. A gourmet meal it is not, yet so long as I live in the area, I will not eat my breakfast anywhere else but this insignificant establishment on a muddy little side street. Although the phrase "customer loyalty" is not likely a part of this woman's vocabulary, she clearly understands the importance of the concept as it applies to herself and her livelihood. Her product is not of the highest quality available, but she secures business for herself by means of pleasant greetings and personal interest.

We are all in the business of serving others these days, whether we recognize it or not. Today's customer demands not only high-quality goods and "service with a smile," but something more. Successful companies look for ways to provide their customers with increasingly innovative products and services. The way these are presented to the public is becoming increasingly important. Sadly, in many cases, consumer care is not keeping up with customer expectations.

We must reassess the way we go about customer service. Hiring a nice young lady with a pleasant telephone voice to be the frontline for all customer complaints is not

nearly enough. Savvy companies today realize that every aspect of their business is involved in customer satisfaction that is inextricably linked to the all-important bottom line. Every employee is in the customer service department.

A talented employee who provides outstanding service that moves on to another organization constitutes a significant loss. What can companies do to find and hold onto people that provide the sort of service that keeps customers coming back for more?

Firstly, determine what sort of person does well in your company and which personality traits and skills your customers value most. Carefully screen applicants for those qualities. This process will require more than glancing over stacks of resumes, as these provide limited insight into a person's character. Have more than one interview with potential employees and invite two or three different colleagues to sit in on those interviews to provide their views on the applicant.

Make it a policy to hire nice people. Empathy, a quality sometimes described as "your pain in my heart," or the ability to put yourself in another person's shoes, is an extremely valuable trait for anyone in contact with clients and customers. As an aspect of personality, not an acquired skill, it is much better to hire empathetic people than to try and create them through training.

Secondly, make a plan to keep good employees loyal. Basic issues are the ones most commonly over-

looked. Be sure to orient and train new employees. How many of us have had the experience of coming into a new job without a clue as to what to do? All too often, this confusion about our role continues for days, weeks, even months in a new position, resulting in all kinds of unnecessary mistakes and wasted time. Worse, not clearly understanding the company's expectations could easily lead to the sort of actions that cause an organization to lose customers. Create a proper orientation program and ongoing training. Clearly explain what employees must do to succeed. Recognize that quality training, given to the right staff at the right time, never fails to pay for itself.

Customer loyalty and employee loyalty are closely related. Ensure that your employees feel the way you want your customers to feel - well cared for. Through open communication, create an environment in which your employees feel their opinions and concerns are important, their ideas are valued, and their enthusiastic participation is encouraged. The management team should receive effective communication training, so they can take the initiative to stimulate the sharing of ideas with employees.

Organizations can do a great deal to contribute to their own success, not only in the arena of customer service, but in almost every aspect of daily operations, by promoting the benefits of careful hiring, proper training, and clear communication.



CFP Photo

Aviation



Lufthansa expands benefits to Miles and More members in China

Lufthansa has joined forces with Newwave Rewards enabling its Miles and More members to redeem miles in exchange for hundreds of exclusive and ever-changing products. Lufthansa is the first and only European airline offering the unique online shopping experience to the airline's frequent flyers in China.

For the first time in China, Lufthansa's Miles and More frequent

flyer members are able to redeem their collected miles for a huge selection of merchandise and also have the option to make cash top ups to gain bigger and better purchases, through Newwave Rewards. Meanwhile, customers can earn miles when shopping online with an earning ratio of 10 yuan per mile.

Miles and More members will enjoy extra reward miles for every shopping excursion with a total value over 600 yuan until October 31, regardless of payment by miles or credit cards.

Lowest fares to London and free Heathrow Express tickets

Log on to ba.com and be the first to bag a free return trip on the Heathrow Express with British Airways.

To celebrate the huge success of the Beijing 2008 Olympics, British Airways is offering to take travelers straight into the heart of Central London, host of the 2012 Games, on a special fare for as low as 3,380 yuan. The first 50 customers to book this special World Traveler economy fare will receive a set of Heathrow Express return tickets worth over 530 yuan.

The fare is available for booking on ba.com until September 30 for travel between September 23 and March 31, 2009.

Hotel

The largest Marriott Hotel outside of the US

Beijing Marriott Hotel City Wall owns 1,312 rooms, known as the largest Marriott hotel outside the US. Beijing Marriott Hotel City Walls offers a special opening rate of 900 yuan, which is

subject to a service charge, on a deluxe room until December 31. **Reservation is subject to room availability.**

Where: Beijing Marriott Hotel City Wall, 7 Jianguomen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng

Website: marriott.com/BJSCW

Dining

Salmonlicious

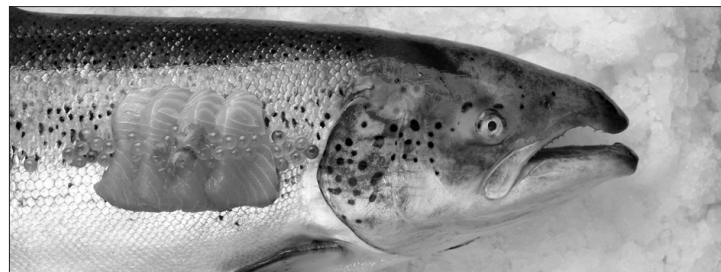
In September, salmon is the main tone of the extensive buffet at Senses. Splashes of flaky tender pink salmon are transformed into salmon tartar, salmon wonton noodles and grilled salmon.

Where: Senses, 9b Financial Street, Xicheng

Open: 11:30 am - 10:30 pm

Cost: 228 yuan (lunch buffet), 268 yuan (dinner buffet) (all prices subject to a 15 percent service charge)

Tel: 6629 7810



(By Li Jing)

Dining beside the park

By Jackie Zhang

When Chaoyang Park reopened to the public in 2004, the street beside its western gate became a popular night-life spot for foreigners and young Chinese people. The park is not far from Maizidian and Sanlitun, both areas of the city famous for attracting expats.

The dining avenue is connected to Lucky Street, also famous for its diverse food selection. The dining and entertainment options make it easy for any boyfriend to please his girl. You can enjoy the exotic cuisine of south-east Asia and traditional Beijing favorites.

Rabbit girls in Susie Wong Club.



The party room in Goose and Duck.



Suzie Wong

By Chu Meng

Suzie Wong is more club than bar. The curious go to see its 1960s film-inspired decor, which is like stepping into a Hong Kong of the past. If you are lucky you will arrive early enough to get one of the Ming Dynasty beds.

Vagabond journalist Bernard Shaw titled old Shanghai the "Paris of the East." Suzie Wong captures its electrifying atmosphere of sexuality, mystery and strength. A mix of this Shanghai 1940 decadence with New York 1920s swing, Club Suzie Wong is Sin City resurrected and ready to party in 2007.

Decorated like a lavish 1930s Shanghai cabaret, its Touch Club has fast become Beijing's premier nightspot, boasting classy clientele, beautiful patrons and an active desire to promote the unexpected. Operating in the allusive Oriental 1939 fantasy and redefining its mysteries, Touch Club offers an eclectic mix of hip modern music, design and clientele.

Complimenting its high-octane vibe are Club Suzie Wong's laid-back upper floors, showcasing a rich character flush with Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1912) dynasty ambiance and design. "Made in China" transcends its pithy maxim, assuming a reality both in atmosphere and design — one indicative of the fun spirit that first drew Beijing's nightlife. Rich in hardwood character, the upper floors are adorned with authentic opium beds, a large wood-balcony overlooking the bar and an extensive outdoor terrace. The upper floors are among a select handful of worldwide saloons that pay faithful homage to classical Chinese design.

Suzie Wong

Tel: 6593 6049

Open: 7 pm – 4 am next day

Cost: 70 yuan per person

Guizhou Luoluo Suantang Yu

By Chu Meng

Guizhou Luoluo is known for its artsy air and authentic south-east China cuisine. Suantang yu, or fish in sour soup, is its signature dish. With deliciously fresh fish and delightfully sour broth, you are sure to want to take home the leftovers.

Suantang yu is cooked in sour, pickled cabbage soup, which makes it more tender. It is served in a hotpot with chili peppers and tomato juice. Though the boiled soup looks extremely red, the color does little to indi-

cate the spice. Most of the red comes from the tomato.

The dish is common in Guizhou restaurants, where suantang yu is eaten like hotpot in Beijing. You finish the fish boiled in the sour soup, and then you can boil whatever you want in it: vegetables or other meats. The taste is quite unique because of the fish infusion.

Also try the beef rice noodles (*niu rou xi mian*) or fried rice with sour radish (*suan luobo chao fan*), perfect for those who like a pucker. The spare ribs

Other hot spots

Annie's Italian Restaurant

Unpretentious, affordable Italian food, voted "Best Italian" and "Outstanding Pizza" in the Beijing Travel Guide's 2006 Reader Restaurant Awards.

A casual, cozy, and tremendously welcoming Italian bistro tucked away amongst the nightspots at Chaoyang Park, Annie's is the hands-down favorite for affordable Italian fare in Beijing. Wood-fired pizzas are its most popular item, but try the baked gnocchi gratinate with tomato and broccoli, or the chicken ravioli served with spinach and a fine tomato cream sauce.

Where: A1 Nongzhan Nanlu (near the west gate of Chaoyang Park), Chaoyang
Open: 11 am – 11 pm
Tel: 6591 1931

Cost: 80 yuan per person
Wireless internet access; delivery available.

Fu Ze Hotpot

Fu Ze Hotpot restaurant is not just another Hong Kong style hot pot restaurant. The menu is much simpler than many others in the city: a long sheet of paper with all the choices. You simply tick off the dishes you want.

The cold appetizers are definitely worth trying and the crispy pork ear slices are a winner. The black fungus is a healthy option. If you are curious, you can also try its preserved eggs with green chili slices.

Where: Chaoyang Park West Gate, above the Richang restaurant

Open: 24 hours

Tel: 6593 1082

Cost: 100 yuan per person

Goose and Duck

One of the oldest expat hang-outs in the city, this comfortable British-style sports pub lets patrons catch up on the latest sports news over a frothy Guinness and a lip-smacking shepherd's pie.

It has great bands. In the hot and humid summer nights after work, it is a fabulous place to cool down the brain and body with a couple of ice-cold beers in the outdoor pavilions.

Where: 1 Bihuju, opposite to Chaoyang Park West Gate
Open: 24 hours

Tel: 6538 1691

Cost: 100 yuan per person

(By Jackie Zhang)



Fresh beef is served in Luoluo Suantangyu.

are melt-in-your-mouth perfect, as are the cold noodle dishes in a piquant sauce.

Guizhou Luoluo Suantang Yu

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6594 0939

Cost: 120 yuan per person



Cake served in Annie's.

Sophie's Dining Room

By Milo Lee

Many housewives dream of a decorated home, but are frustrated by mass-produced furnishings as sold at the local hypermarket. Sophie's Dining Room, founded in 1997, targets the interior decorator

within with its selection of tableware, decorations and house accessories.

Many of the products are designed by the shop owner Sophie, a Taiwanese woman who has reinvented the definition of home furnishing. From cushions with beauti-

ful tassels, silk purses and hand-painted bone chinaware to embroidered tablecloths, this shop has surpassed many giant companies to become a symbol in home furnishing.

Surrounded by bars and restaurants near Chaoyang

Park, this shop does not fit the wild night life atmosphere. But if you appreciate the little things in life, Sophie's Dining Room is worth a wander.

Sophie's Dining Room

Open: 10 am – 7 pm

Tel: 6506 6386

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NORTH**MUSE**

Open: 11 am – 11:30 pm
Tel: 6586 3188
Cost: 75 yuan per person

Gisa Restaurant

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 6 pm – 11 pm
Tel: 6594 0938
Cost: 150 yuan per person, international credit cards accepted

Gui Zhou Luoluo Suantang Yu

Open: 11 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6594-0939
Cost: 150 yuan per person

OTTO's Restaurant

Open: 9 am – 4 am the next day
Tel: 6593 1078
Cost: 50 yuan per person

Fu Ze Hotpot

Open: 24 hours
Tel: 6593 1082
Cost: 100 yuan per person, international credit cards accepted

Bar Pepper

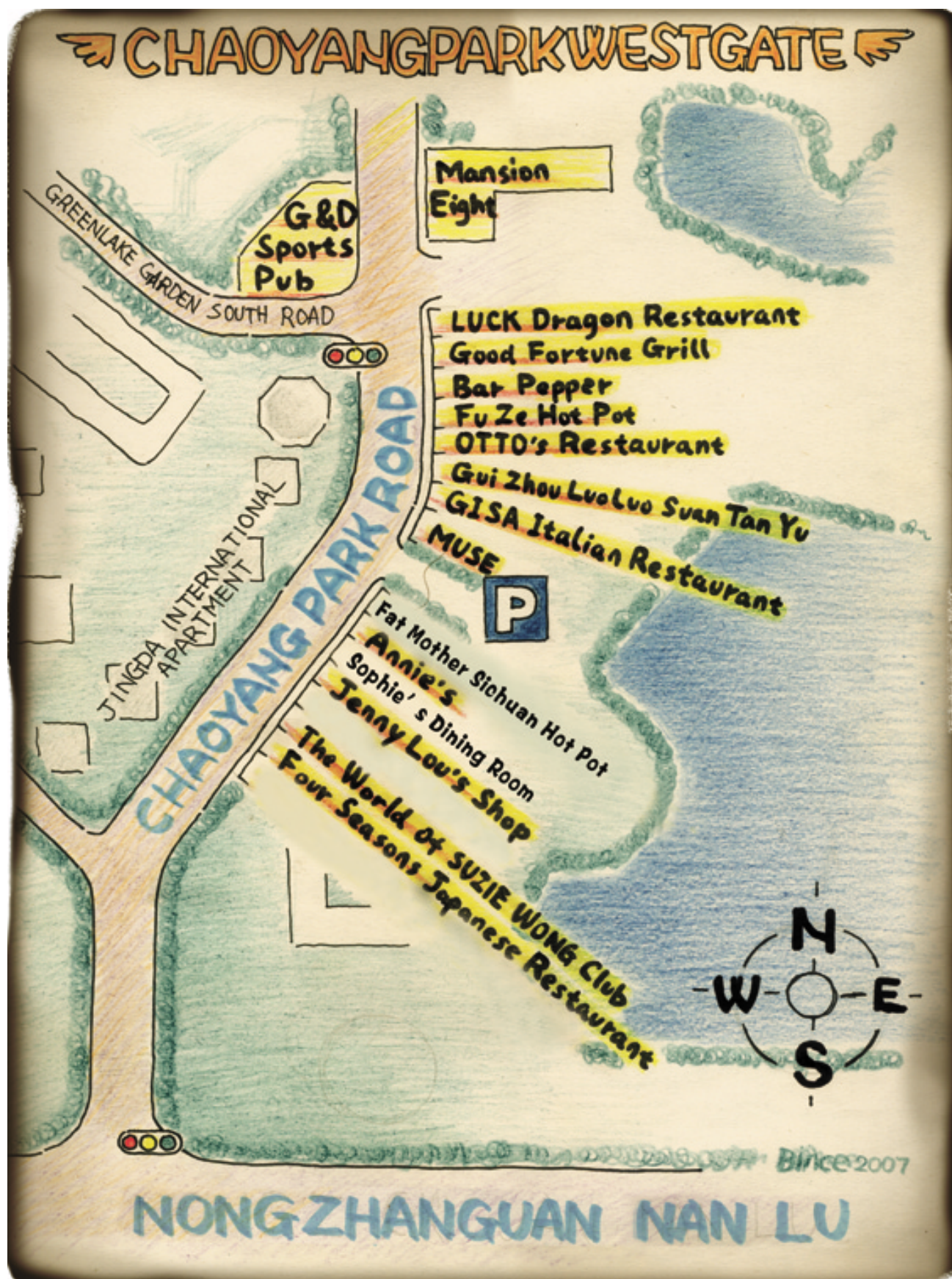
Open: 8 pm – 4 am next day
Tel: 6592 0788
Cost: 50 – 150 yuan per person

Good Fortune Grill

Open 24 hours
Tel: 6593 6599
Cost: 80 yuan per person

Luck Dragon Restaurant

Open: 10 am – 11 pm
Tel: 6586 1301
Cost: 50 yuan per person
Goose and Duck
Open: 24 hours
Tel: 6538 1691
Cost: 100 yuan per person, international credit cards accepted

**SOUTH****Four Seasons Japanese Restaurant**

Open 11 am – 10:30 pm
Tel: 6502 2280
Cost: 120 yuan per person

Jenny Lou's Shop

Open: 8 am – 12 pm
Tel: 6461 6928

Suzie Wong

Open: 7 pm – 4 am the next day

Tel: 6593 6049

Cost: 70 yuan per person

Sophie's Dining Room

Open: 10 am – 9 pm
Tel: 6506 6386

Annie's

Open: 11 am – 11 pm
Tel: 6591 1931

Cost: 80 yuan per person

WiFi wireless Internet access, deliv-

ery available, credit cards accepted

Fat Mother Sichuan Hot Pot

Open: 11 am – 2 am next day
Tel: 6500 6919

Cost: 50 – 100 yuan per person

An Die An Niang

Open: 10:30 am – 9:30 pm
Tel: 6595 1122

Cost: 25 yuan per person, credit cards not accepted

(By Jackie Zhang)